

Economic Commission & Development Finance Authority
(ECDFA)

Thursday July 24, 2003

MINUTES

Members present: Bill Newell, Gail Fallon, Robin Johnson, Ken Patrick, Joseph Giovino, Tim Hoisington, Kwaku Kwateng

Guest: Tim Kilduff-Member Chamber of Commerce

Meeting started: 7:30

Minutes of July 10 & 17 approved

Blue Ribbon Comm.-act as a liason for business in town.

Ken said it should be easy for a business to start in town.

Tim said from talking with Trish Perry at the July 17 meeting that there are other commissions in town-we should go in another direction-be a liason.

Tim, Robin, Ken and Gail said Be a business liason.

Ken said we should check into future financing available. Someone should be on the Visions Forum from our group.

Kwaku-try to create office space.

Joe-more development downtown.

Still talking about the parking issues-some expansion. Heavy traffic downtown-east west.

Downtown Revitalization

Next meeting to be talking to Mass. Econ. Development. July 31.

Aug. 31 meeting to speak with Claire-New properties

Next Meeting date: Aug 31 Agreed to meet once a month. Robin suggests those meetings may be longer.

Selectman's meeting Aug. 5. Everyone try to attend. Bill should present to them our agenda.

Robin said try to define our mission-talk to all groups.

Tim Kilduff asked what made each of us join the ECDFA.

Gail said with her architectural experience, she felt she could be of help.

Tim came to N.E. from South Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. He said he wanted to help in decisions for new business and make an impact.

Kwaku said he wants to contribute to try to help the town, make it a beautiful town to grow up in.

Robin was on the past Econ. Comm. and has experience from them to contribute.

Everyone just wants to see some changes to bring in economy to the town. Was the Chamber planning to hire someone to work on downtown revitalization? Keep rural character of the town.

Gail suggested more restaurants.

Tim Kilduff said there is potential for the downtown area to grow. If we had the right group together there could be changes, raise capitol. Affordable housing.

Harvey project in the works. There is a lot of Board of Health issues. We should talk to Harvey and get info from them.

Tim H. suggested extend Elmwood Park. Concentrate on downtown. There are challenges-think about our vision. Economic reality. 1st override didn't go thru, the 2nd one just barely squeaked by. Maybe there will be another one in the future. How does that affect the tax payers? Possible Dual Tax rate.

Gail said what about the tax rate @ South St?

Ken said it is time to step up -contribute to the town. Focus on what is our mandate.

Blue Ribbon found their way through.

Development on Fruit St. There is a whole committee working on that area.

Tim H said: 1. People need to know our backgrounds and know we are here. 2. Get different groups together. 3. Use the Chamber of Commerce as liason.

Robin said is a lot of disagreement w/ commercial development?

Tim H said possible expansion of Main St. to Upton. We have a shot at getting something done-contact the press. Hopkinton is the crossroad of N.E. Safe area.

Bill arrived at 8:15.

Ken said to research the mission of the Chamber of Commerce. Get info.

Bill said employ resources, reach out, get a clear sense of what we are doing. Other than the

Master Plan, get a collective understanding of who we are. We need the public relations. Are we an Advisory board? What capacity do we have? We have to determine what to do. Can we be a resource? Be a liaison office for development-develop a brochure and go thru steps to get a business started. Collect information.

We don't want to be spinning our wheels.

Robin-have a role in finance.

Gail said check into Mass. bonds.

Bill said Paul Prior would be a big help with Finances. He was on the past ECDFA.

Has a lot of experience. Is willing to help us. Maybe Kwaku can meet with Paul since he has a lot of expertise in finance.

How does Hopkinton fit into the region, compared with Milford, South Boro, Westboro, Framingham, Natick, etc.

Westboro has got a lot of encouragement with community development.

Tim said we should try to meet with John Coolidge-chairman of the planning board and the board of Health.

Bill suggests we build notoriety-who we are, commitment, builds political base.

Tim K said good luck to us all. He said we look like we are doing a very good effort.

Bill said to e-mail a short paragraph about themselves prior to Aug. 5 Selectman's meeting.

Adjourned 9pm.

Next meeting: Aug. 31.