

**Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
Meeting held February 9, 2009
Town Hall Small Conference Room**

Approved Minutes

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: Bob Knight, Paul Levine, Chris Fisher, Mark Robinson and Rick O'Brien

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Maura Cochran and Peter Holland from Bartram & Cochran, National Real Estate Consultants, gave a presentation of the benefits of using a consulting firm to write an Economic Development Plan for Ridgefield and how Bartram & Cochran would accomplish this.

Mark Waterhouse, from Garnet Consulting Services, Inc., gave his proposal to create an Economic Development Plan for Ridgefield.

After the consultants left the meeting, EDC members shared their reactions to the proposals.

Paul Levine – Would go with either firm. Garnet Consulting has a better grasp on form but not feasibility.

Bob Knight – Garnet has a more clearly defined action plan. Both firms were given the same information and Garnet came back with many questions that Bartram & Cochran did not.

Mark Robinson – Garnet appeared to have given more thought to the task and Mark Waterhouse (Garnet) has a high energy level.

Chris Fisher – Garnet's economic development plan has a clearly identified action plan and includes the specific needs of Ridgefield. Garnet also collaborates with Planimetrics, which is an added benefit.

Rick O'Brien – Garnet specializes in economic development and was identified in the Town of Guilford's plan. Mark Waterhouse (Garnet) is a very clear, crisp thinker. There are efficiencies using Garnet because it collaborates with Planimetrics.

Everyone was in agreement to use the services of Garnet Consulting Services, Inc.

Mark Robinson made a motion to authorize Bob Knight to contact Bartram & Cochran and Garnet Consulting Services, Inc. to advise them of the Economic Development

Commission's intention to use the services of Garnet Consulting Services, Inc. Chris Fisher seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Paul Levine made a motion to authorize Chris Fisher to start contract negotiations with Garnet Consulting Services, Inc. Rick O'Brien seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Bob Knight reminded members that the EDC presents its budget to the BOS on Thursday, February 12, 2009 - time to be announced.

There will be a fourth round table discussion on February 19, 2009. West Mountain INK will put a report together of discussions from all four.

At 9:00 p.m. Paul Levine made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bob Knight and approved 5-0.

The next EDC meeting will be held Monday, March 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Large Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Wolnick, Secretary