

**Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
Meeting held January 11, 2010
Town Hall Probate Conference Room**

Unapproved Minutes

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

In attendance: Bob Knight, Rick O'Brien, Chris Fisher, Magdalena Fincham
Absent: Bill Markus, Paul Levine, Mark Robinson.

Bob Knight called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

Approval of minutes 10/13/09; 11/9/09; 12/4/09; 12/14/09

Discussion was had regarding modifications to the above minutes.

Rick O'Brien made a motion to approve minutes from 10/13/09 with modifications, seconded by Magdalena Fincham. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Magdalena Fincham made a motion to approve minutes from 11/9/09 with modifications, seconded by Rick O'Brien. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Chris Fisher made a motion to approve minutes from 12/4/09, seconded by Rick O'Brien. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Chris Fisher made a motion to approve minutes from 12/14/09 with modifications, seconded by Rick O'Brien. Motion failed due to lack of quorum, 3 – 0 – 1. Rick O'Brien abstained. This action will be presented at the next meeting to be voted on again.

Economic Development Plan Time line and Resourcing

Magdalena started the discussion with a recap of what was talked about during the last meeting. The Board of Selectman would be discussing the EDP at their meeting scheduled for 1/27/10. Magdalena suggested that the time line not start at the same time and to scatter the start times. A discussion was had on when certain initiative could start and whether approval from the BOS was needed prior to starting any of them. Changes to the time line will be made prior to submitting the plan to the BOS.

Magdalena Fincham made a motion to approve amendments to the Economic Development Plan, seconded by Bob Knight. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Rick O'Brien began a discussion on what resources would be needed to accomplish the initiatives set forth in the EDP. The following items were discussed:

- A roll out of the plan to a number of the Town employees and commission members to help to begin to change culture (economic development is everyone's job / no one on the side line).
- Suggest ½ day meeting w/ 4 or 5 teams with 4-5 members on each team. Each team to include an EDC member as chair and each team to further drill down on the planning of each of the Action Items (w/the exception of the p&z action item).
- We would then be better positioned to draw existing resources, which will likely be the primary sourcing of implementation (that is, Rudy's staff).
- A modest monthly retainer (\$500 to \$1,000) of Waterhouse in 2010 to leverage his expertise when it makes sense. Time would roll to the following month.
- Infrastructure/tool/subscription/Internet/membership/administrative support (PowerPoint) budget.
- Consulting dollars for retail leakage (probably to occur after July so don't need to focus on today).

Discussion followed regarding the above and whether to have resourcing as a separate section.

Chris Fisher made a motion to amend transmittal letter as stated in bullets above to BOS, seconded by Magdalena. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Task force and initiative reports

Magdalena had contact with Richard Baldelli regarding the signage at Weir Farm. He advised her to contact Jim Lapan of the State Department of Transportation. Mr. Lapan had not returning her call at the time of the meeting. Magdalena has also spoken with Jeff Ryer regarding possible spaces available on Route 7 to house the new Weir Farm welcome center. He told her that there was nothing available at this time. Magdalena will follow up with him and set up a meeting between Mr. Ryer and Linda Cook.

Rick had a follow up conversation with George Mulvaney about using him as a liaison to the neighbors of Route 7 and 35.

Rick also mention the article in the Ridgefield Press regarding Svago. Miscellaneous discussion was had on how the EDC could be of help to her. Magdalena will be in contact with Marion Toth from the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce to decide if the EDC could be of assistance.

Web site content

Due to Mark Robinson absence more in depth discussion is needed on this item. Bob reviewed several different EDC sites and received some good ideas for Ridgefield EDC site. He showed the members a print out of some different call outs to be added.

At 8:13 PM Rick O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Fisher.

Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Buckley