

**Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
July 12, 2010
Town Hall Large Conference Room**

Unapproved Minutes

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

In attendance Bill Markus, Mark Robinson, Chris Fisher, Bob Knight
Absent: Magdalena Fincham

Bill Markus called the meeting to order at 7:09PM

General Recap of Incubator Project

The Board of Selectman approved allocation of \$5000 to move forward with the incubator without walls project (IWOW). Marketing will begin after labor day. This will include a direct mail piece to every residence in Ridgefield. Paul provided some general guidelines of the IWOW he started in other communities. Bob Knight and other commission members explained to the public what the IWOW was and what the goals of this project is

Route 7 development

The EDC feels that this is the most important issue facing Ridgefield between now and 2012. EDC needs to quickly engage and form a task force that includes all the stakeholders so that Ridgefield calls the shots on what types of development will come to Route 7. The HVCEO/SWRPA study is ongoing and is on its way to being adopted. Once this study is adopted there is little the EDC can do to properly affect change in Ridgefield Chris Fisher provided documents from the SWRPA website. A task force needs to be created having other town agencies involved such as WPCA, P&Z, Ridgefield Housing Authority and residents. Ridgefield needs to be active in this project. SWRPA has a published time line they are working to. They are in the planning phase now. Bob Knight opened the meeting to public comment.

Town Staff Meeting

Bob Knight asked if anyone would be available to go to the next town staff meeting to discuss what the EDC does and how town staff can help.

Filling Vacancies

Rick O'Brien no longer will be on EDC. Any interested party will send information to Selectman's office. A notice ran in the Ridgefield Press.

HVCEO

Bob Knight explained what HVCEO has been doing. Bob and Betty Brosius are attending work group sessions. Miscellaneous discussion followed.

Miscellaneous

Chris Fisher mention two new programs for small businesses in CT. The first one can be found at DECD website and second at ctinovations.com

Mark Robinson gave a brief update to the website

Bill Markus made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Robinson. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Buckley