

**Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
March 8, 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, Paul Levine, Mark Robinson, Rick O'Brien, Chris Fisher,
Magdalena Fincham
Absent: Bob Knight

Bill Markus called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

**Transit-Oriented Development/Branchville, Guests: Dave Goldman, Chairman
Ridgefield Affordable Housing Committee, Rob Gutman, Member AHC**

Dave started with a summary of what the AHC does and some of their recent projects. One concern is that the Plan of Conservation and Development does not include affordable housing. A study done by HVECO determined that there is a need in Ridgefield for 1,087 moderate to low cost housing unit. Rob also said that there is a great need for work force housing. The AHC would like to work with the EDC to develop affordable housing in the Branchville area. The AHC will come back with some recommendations regarding development of work force housing.

Economic Development Plan implementation best practices, with Guest Elizabeth Stocker, Town of Newtown

Elizabeth gave a brief work history and what she has done to help Newtown with economic development. One key is to have a good solid plan to follow to meet certain goals and objectives. She contributed receiving town backing by showing the Board of Selectman projects that have progressed and that have helped the community. The EDC did an aggressive marketing campaign that informed business that they were there to help. Miscellaneous discussion followed as to suggestions to gain town backing and helping the community.

POCD SWRPA Route 7 meeting update

During the public hearing regarding the POCD the general tone was that rezoning on Rt. 7 would be a very good thing. There are some environmental issues on Rt. 7 that might delay development on properties. The EDC will work with PZC to have similar goals and objectives for the Branchville area. Miscellaneous discussion followed regarding the POCD and rezoning of Rt. 7.

BoS/BoF-budget and Incubator project

Paul will proceed with the Incubator project and will discuss with the BOS. Miscellaneous discussion followed regarding presentations to the BOS.

Web site

This item was tabled for future discussion.

Applicable task force updates

This item was tabled for future discussion.

Approval of minutes

Paul Levine made a motion to approve minutes from 12/14/09 with modifications, seconded by Chris Fisher. Motion carried, 5 – 0 – 1 (Rick O'Brien) abstained.

Paul Levine made a motion to approve minutes from 1/11/10 with modifications, seconded by Chris Fisher. Motion carried, 5 – 0 – 1 (Mark Robinson) abstained.

Mark Robinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick O'Brien. Motion carried, 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Buckley