

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
June 16, 2011 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Roger Tracy, Susan Thorner, Caroline D'Otreppe,
Alt. Brian Banak Absent: G. Smith, E. McAnaney
Also present: EDC Director Patrick McMahon, Lynda Montefusco

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes – Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting; the motion was seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Input: None

Route #75 PDIP Area – The EDC Director reminded the members of the grand opening of Arcor Laser Services, June 24.

Town Center Initiatives –

Bissell Inn – The issue of the windows is not yet resolved. The legal opinion stated that the Zoning & Planning Commission and the Historic District Commission have co-jurisdiction. The commissions will negotiate and resolve the issue.

Bridge Street School – The Board of Selectmen requested that a Request for Proposal for use of the school be published. The Commission discussed various options.

Ff Tyler Place – The Lauren property is still up for sale (30) acres for \$7.2 million. There has been some interest, but the location of the Highway Garage seems to not favor the sale and development of the land. If the Highway Garage was re-located, there might be more interest. The road must be accepted as a Town Road, and this calls for rehabilitation of the road. Could EDC fund a study showing various scenarios of possible uses?

Grant Initiatives – The Town has applied for a \$500,000 STEAP grant to be used for road improvement of Harvey Lane (\$250,000) and of Canal Road (\$250,000). The Town also has applied for a Small Cities grant for the conversion of two housing units meeting ADA compliance.

BDL Update - The bill to establish a quasi-public Airport Authority was approved by the legislature. The Commission suggested some possible improvements i.e. trans- Atlantic travel, quicker baggage retrieval system, and some west coast flights.

Director's Report – Mr. McMahon noted that the both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance have approved the Town's acceptance of the proposed donation of Lot 5 and Lot 6 on Bennett Road offered by the owner, Suffield Associates. This will have to go Town Meeting for approval.

Town Hall – The installation of new windows is underway.

Bids for the Kent Memorial Roof will be sought; the Library will be closed for 90 days.

Signs – Mr. Tracy reported that three of the four signs need to be repaired and repainted. The Commission noted that the cost of new signs to be significant, and it was the consensus of the Commission to have the signs repaired and repainted.

The EDC Commission does not meet in July or August; the Chairman may call a special meeting at any time if required.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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