

Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes of **April 13, 2021**

Attendance: Judy Andrade, Renee Bein, Scott Blinkhorn, Marlene Cook, Geoffrey Cooper, Ross Farrugia, Dean Roussel.

Absent: Craig Bein, Neil Cook, and Ulric Deojay.

Staff present – Link Cooper and Patricia Ball

Audience of Citizens: Maurice Bessette and Tom O'Brien.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Geoffrey Cooper at 7:02 pm. As a courtesy to the commission members and audience Chairman Cooper asked the new members to introduce themselves. Both Renee Bein and Dean Roussel stated they are looking forward to working with the commission and proving guidance as needed to promote the economic development of the town. Both have a background of extensive commitment to the community.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: R. Farrugia made a motion, seconded by D. Roussel, to accept as written the 06/06/2020 regular meeting minutes. All voted in favor of the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Industrial Park / Land Lease Availability: P. Ball informed the commission she has not heard anything new from Ms. Valentina Solomita, current owner of 5 Exeter Drive, regarding any further requests for land and / or the possibility of leasing land in the Industrial Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. New Member Introductions: Moved to beginning of meeting.

b. 1110 Plainfield Pike – a.k.a. Old Town Library: Mr. Tom O'Brien introduced himself to the commission. He is interested in purchasing 1110 Plainfield Pike. He currently owns an online retail business and is searching for a location to hold his inventory. He has submitted an offer to the commission to purchase the property. D. Roussel made a motion, seconded by S. Blinkhorn, to discuss the offer in an executive session. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. 31 Hungry Hill Road: P. Ball stated she received an email from Ms. Melissa Nordstrom, life-long Sterling resident at 5 Hungry Hill Road. She is interested in purchasing this vacant lot to add to her abutting property lot with the intention to make her current lot meet the required size required by the planning and zoning in order to build a new home. The lot in question was obtained by the town in a foreclosure sale several years ago and due to a fire on the property needs to be cleaned up before she can use it. She has proposed purchasing the lot and completing the cleanup. R. Farrugia, made a motion, seconded by D. Roussel, to accept her offer of \$2,500 for 31 Hungry Hill Road contingent on her providing an acceptable plan of how she intends to complete the clean-up and to recommend to the Board of Selectman, once the plan is received, to request an 8-24 review from the Sterling Planning and Zoning Board. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Motion on acceptance of 2021 meeting schedule: R. Farrugia made a motion, seconded by S. Blinkhorn to accept the 2021 meeting schedule. All voted in favor of the motion.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

R. Farrugia, made a motion, seconded by R. Bein to enter into executive session and to include First Selectman L. Cooper and Economic Development Coordinator P. Ball in the session to discuss the offer for 1110 Plainfield Pike. All voted in favor of the motion. Entered executive session at 8:11 p.m. and left executive session at 8:20 p.m. There were no votes taken during executive session.

D. Roussel made a motion, seconded by S. Blinkhorn, to have P. Ball arrange for an appraisal of 1110 Plainfield Pike so the commission members have an understanding of the current market value of the property to aid in the negotiations of any future potential sale. All voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by R. Farrugia, seconded by S. Blinkhorn to adjourn at 8:21 pm. All voted in favor of the motion.

Submitted by,

Patricia Ball, Economic Development Coordinator