



Economic Outreach Committee

C.J. Hurgin Municipal Center - 1 School Street,
Bethel, Connecticut 06801
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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, July 22, 2010

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

Present: Roy Steiner, Tony Rubino, Bob Stosser, Pat Smithwick, Mike Boyle. Also in attendance was the Board of Selectmen and future member Bonnie Brown.

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and had each member introduce themselves.

First Selectman Knickerbocker presented the Economic Outreach Committee with a list of goals:

Goals

- Attract new business to Bethel.
- Increase job opportunities for Bethel residents.
- Increase visitation to Bethel to support established businesses.

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Possible Areas of Study

- Develop outline of opportunities for business locations in Bethel.
- Determine types of business operations that are best suited for Bethel (office, light manufacturing, R&D, etc.).
- Research methods of proactively seeking out firms that looking for opportunities to relocate and/or expand.
- Develop a comprehensive marketing information package for the Town of Bethel.
- Research public and private grant opportunities for funding new business development.

- Work cooperatively with Bethel and Stony Hill Four Corners Chambers of Commerce to develop marketing plans that will attract visitors to Bethel and support existing businesses.

A general discussion took place regarding areas to explore and included such items as determining why businesses are here and why some have left; perhaps soliciting public input as to what types of business people want here in town, solicit the advice of commercial realtors, etc.

It was noted that there presently is no funding for the committee but that in the event something came up that would be of interest or benefit to the committee to help achieve their goals, the Board of Selectmen would consider a funding request.

Pat Smithwick spoke regarding the different organizations that she is involved with that promote economic development and will provide the committee members with information about the organizations, meeting times, etc.

Immediate Tasks

Determine meeting schedule (monthly meetings are suggested); post schedule with Town Clerk.

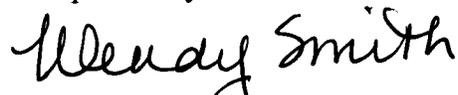
Members agreed to hold their regular meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; next meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Elect officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

Roy Steiner made a motion, which was seconded by Tony Rubino to appoint Mike Boyle as temporary chairman. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Remaining officers will be appointed at the first meeting of the committee.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Mike Boyle made a motion, which was seconded by Roy Steiner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary