

ECONOMIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

C.J. Hurgin Municipal Center
1 School Street Bethel, CT 06801
(203) 794-8501 Fax (203) 778-7520

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011
6:30 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center - "Meeting Room "A"

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: Chairman, Mike Boyle, Members: Bonnie Brown, Mike Struna, Pat Smithwick, Paul Rinaldi, Roy Steiner, and Sandi Forman.

Absent: Anthony Rubino and Bob Stosser

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Pat Smithwick made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting dated March 22, 2011. Motion seconded by Bonnie Brown. Vote was taken, Minutes were approved. Paul Rinaldi and Roy Steiner abstained.

Updates on Sub-Committees:

Paul Rinaldi presented a template from Economy Signs of the possible signage (see attached). Members voiced their opinions; the consensus is to have a town seal in the back ground with the sign stating "Stony Hill Shopping District" and "Shop Historic Downtown Bethel" with arrows. Locations of the signs to be finalized as soon as possible.

Sandi Forman reported on meeting along with Bob Stosser with Town Planner Steve Palmer. She has also been in contact with Karen Fildes at the High School. It is hopeful that the Brochure will be completed, Sandi to assist with the language in the brochure. Having the video and the website completed by the end of school may be difficult.

Chairman Boyle has discussed the results of the business survey with the First Selectman. First Selectman Knickerbocker is planning a meeting with the Chamber to discuss the results.

Pat Smithwick explained the history of the Chamber and the perceived division between Stony Hill and Downtown. The clarification that there is one Chamber was explained, with Paul Rinaldi representing a Stony Hill merchant confirmed the fact that if merchants want to participate in Chamber functions the opportunity is there for them to do so.

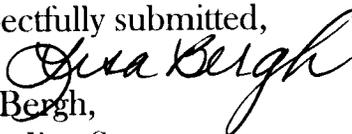
Sandi reported that Steve Palmer is a strong proponent of having a Business Advocate employee for the Town of Bethel. Bonnie Brown explained what is done in Cary, North Carolina (having moved recently from that area) with the help of that type of employee. She recommended that short of a hired employee for this type of position it should be recommended that a college intern fill the position. This may be something we recommend as a commission in the future.

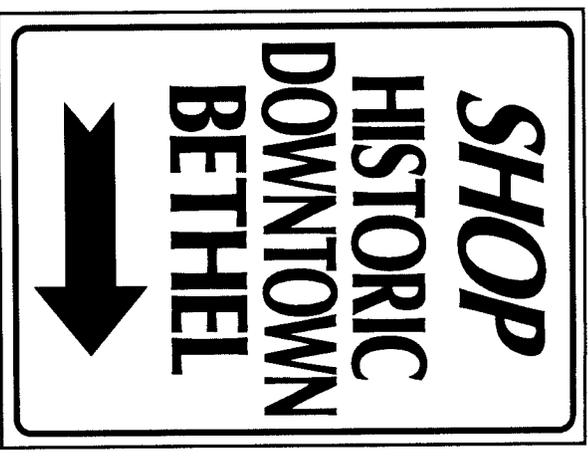
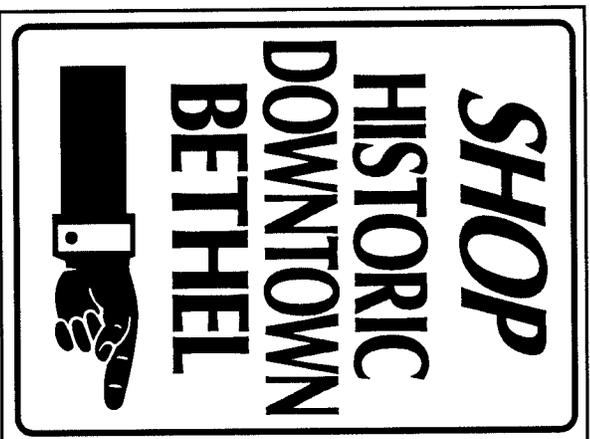
Mike Struna mentioned that he had received a call from someone complaining about having bad experiences with employees from the Health and Building Departments. Communication between the First Selectman and the Departments whether positive or negative was recommended.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sandi Forman; motion was seconded by Bonnie Brown.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary



18" x 24" / 12" x 18" .090 aluminum reflective sign blanks