

ECONOMIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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

TUESDAY, July 26, 2011
7:00 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center - "Meeting Room "A"

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: Chairman, Mike Boyle, Members: Bob Stosser, Anthony Rubino, Pat Smithwick, Mike Struna, Bonnie Brown, Paul Rinaldi and Sandi Forman

Absent: Roy Steiner

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 June 21, 2011. Motion seconded by Bob Stosser. Vote was taken, Minutes were approved. Bonnie Brown, Sandi Forman and Paul Rinaldi abstained.

Updates on Sub-Committees:

Pat Smithwick- Pat reported on attending the Danbury Chamber meeting, she updated the committee on the progress involving the "CEDS". Discussion was focused on a strategic plan meant to capitalize on the pluses of being in the Danbury area, transportation and location to airports, and pharmaceuticals. August 17, 2011 is the next meeting.

Bonnie Brown- Mentioned having found information on the "Newtown Patch" regarding their Economic Development Commission.

Paul Rinaldi- Signs are ready to order, there are 21 locations with 6 having been approved by Steve Palmer and the Police Department on Town roads. Route 302, Route 58 and Route 6 are State roads and need State approval, Steve Palmer has been diligently working to gain that approval.

We hope to have the town signs up by Sept 1, 2011.

Discussion focused on placement. The first sign will be placed at the corner of Payne Road with an arrow directing traffic to downtown Bethel. Tony Rubino suggested that a sign directing traffic to the Stony Hill shopping district be placed at the same time, according to Lt Dickinson, two signs on one spot will not gain approval for safety reasons. Chairman Boyle stated the placement for that area will be reevaluated so as not to exclude or favor one over the other. It may be possible to gain property owners approval for placement. At some point in the future the Town will need signage announcing the area as "Downtown Bethel".

Sandi Forman- Has sent members of the committee an e-mail containing the pictures Don Dempsey has taken for the brochure. Karen Fildes has sent Sandi the file of the brochure as is, it requires more work. Sandi has arranged for a Graphic Designer to act as a mentor to the kids. He will constructively offer his professional opinion and will return the file by the end of the week. Sandi mentioned that only one or two kids are working on the brochure over the summer.

Tony Rubino- With the help of Ed Staib, Tony assisted in getting the downtown property owners together in a meeting on Tuesday, July 19th with the First Selectman and Chairman Boyle. It was a very productive positive meeting with many of the property owners having met for the first time and spent time connecting. For the first meeting it was very well received. A second meeting will take place in September and will be held quarterly. Chairman Boyle reported that Bobbi Jo Beers the new Chamber Director will be putting together the meet and greets with Bethel business owners and the First Selectman. Bonnie Brown had previously offered to assist with this event. Sometime in September the meeting will be held.

Bob Stosser- Bob spoke about the lists he obtained from the various offices in the Municipal Center. They are less than perfect. Rick Lawlor can obtain a list but it will cost \$1.00 per name. Chairman Boyle recommended working with the new Chamber Director to work collectively to come up with a list in the near future.

Chairman Boyle reported on the progress of the Economic Development Commission of which he is also the Chairman. They are receiving designs of new Francis J. Clarke entrance signs with the hopes of a new sign being placed before the cold weather.

Old Business: none

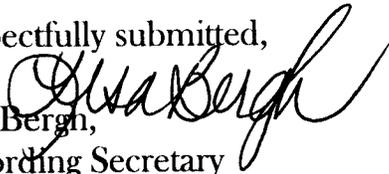
New Business: none

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Smithwick; motion was seconded by Sandi Forman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Bergh", is written over the typed name and title.