



# *Economic Development Commission*

*Town of Bethel, Connecticut*

*Bethel Municipal Center \* 1 School Street \* Bethel, Connecticut 06801*

*(203) 794-8540 Facsimile (203) 778-7520*

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

4:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

**PRESENT:** Michael Boyle, Chairman, Bonnie Brown, Noel Gill, Kevin McMahon and Selectman Straiton. Also in attendance was Economic Director Janice Chrzescijanek.

**Call to order:** Michael Boyle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Public comment:** None

**Approval of minutes:** Bonnie Brown made a motion, which was seconded by Noel Gill, to approve the minutes of February 19, 2014 as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Economic Director Report:** Janice Chrzescijanek reported on the various activities, including 81 personal introductions to new and existing businesses, the Clarke Park Property owners met and will meet again in April.

She noted that representatives of the town video company are speaking with various businesses; First Selectman Knickerbocker had taped his welcome message. A newsletter is slated for April. She will be holding a Fundamentals of Municipal Economic Development forum in April. A series of workshops promoting business growth and support are ongoing.

She is collecting Clarke Park businesses comments on the revising of the Rules & Regulation.

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Clarke Park expansion was discussed. An application has been submitted to the State Bonding Commission, for a matching funds grant which would enable us to move forward, to that end, Kevin McMahon made a motion, which was seconded by Bonnie Brown, to approve the 50% share in the amount of \$9,250 for the Milone & MacBroom proposal (which is only for an environmental study), subject to approval of the state bonding project. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**P&Z Clarke Park zoning change application:** Janice Chrzescijanek informed the commission that an application has been submitted to the Planning & Zoning for a zoning regulation amendment to allow, by special permit, a crematorium in the Industrial Park (IP) zone. A public hearing is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> and P&Z has requested commission comments.

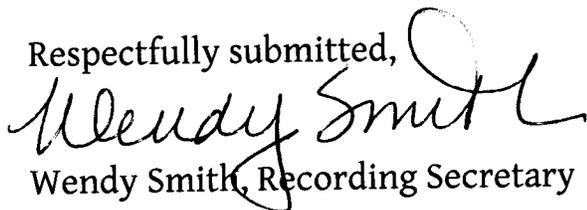
This would potentially affect both Clarke Business Park and Berkshire Corporate Park.

Economic Development Commission member Sharon Straiton advised that she would be abstaining from discussion of the proposal as she has a family/friend connection with the applicant's counsel.

Commission members discussed the application and expressed concern that the addition of a crematorium is not necessarily in the best interest to the direction the park is taking, with the shift from industrial to businesses that are family/recreational, service/retail based as well as catering, entertainment, wholesalers, etc. According to Janice Chrzescijanek report, there does not appear to be significant tax or employment benefits and any impact to the environment, odors, traffic or to public health must be explored further. Concern over a decrease in real estate values and a potential negative impact to future development is also a factor.

**Adjourn:** As there was no further business on today's agenda, Bonnie Brown made a motion, which was seconded by Kevin McMahon, to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary