

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014-7:00PM  
ANN ANTONLINI SCHOOL-CONFERENCE ROOM-30 ANTONLINI ROAD**

PRESENT: Chairman David Childs, Bill Bohan, Shelley Lloyd, Mark Russo, Cindy Donaldson, Lynn Charest, Jim Brett (arrives at 7:09pm)  
ABSENT: Bill Baxter, David Krimmel, Donna LaPlante, Bob Switzgable; Alternate John Burdick

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND SEATING OF ALTERNATES.**

Chairman Dave Childs called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. Ms. Donaldson was seated for Mr. Baxter.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

A. February 10, 2014

Mr. Childs requests to continue item as minutes were not reviewed

**3. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES.**

**RAILS TO TRAILS**

Mr. Bohan speaks from Group B and the Rails to Trails initiative. Mr. Bohan reviews his meeting with the Director of Planning for the Town of Canton, Neil Pade. Mr. Bohan stated that Mr. Pade was very supportive of the New Hartford plan and was able to share a lot of valuable information. Mr. Bohan was informed of a Route 44 Corridor Study to the New Hartford/Canton townline conducted by Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). Mr. Pade advised from his experience that obtaining funding for projects was easier than obtaining funding for feasibility studies. The State wants to see support from town's residential and business community for the trail. Mr. Bohan continues with discussion of property ownership of land for rail trails. The Town of Canton purchased properties once owned by the rail companies but that is not the case in New Hartford. Mr. Pade suggests establishing a Greenway status and to look at making a loop trail as well as a linear trail through New Hartford. Mr. Pade also made a suggestion to hire an on-site construction manager when construction begins to oversee that the project is built to proper specifications. Mr. Bohan states that one of the the next steps would include contacting Mr. Rick Lynn, Bike-Ped Coordinator for Litchfield County.

Ms. Lloyd asks how to get townspeople to support the trail.

Mr. Bohan suggests newsletters, reaching out to business community, property owners and abutters to the proposed trail and to the townspeople.

Ms. Donalson asks about funding and status of other towns

Mr. Bohan explains that the State will not allocate funds until the town shows a funding commitment of 80% of the cost. The State wants to see funds in place before allotting grant money.

Mr. Bohan feels the next step would be to decide where trail will go and then access historic maps and maps filed in the Town to figure out property ownership. He then suggests talking to the business community.

Mr. Childs stated he has presented this idea to the Business Council and got favorable support.

Mr. Brett states he is available to assist in reviewing and obtaining maps in preparation for the next EDC meeting.

#### **FUTURE IDEAS**

Mr. Childs shares his idea that if we can provide something for getting kids to come to New Hartford, their parents will come. Mr. Childs would like to find a place to donate a funhouse type mirror for kids to use and he shared that on his recent vacation, he saw a historic walking tour in the area he was staying.

#### **PROPERTY TAX REWARD PROGRAM**

Mr. Brett suggests arranging a presentation of the Property Tax Reward Program to a future Commission meeting. The program was an incentive to encourage residents to shop at local stores.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

Mr. Bohan brings up an idea to start a program to highlight local business during the Christmas season in conjunction with Small Business Saturday campaign from American Express. He feels now is the time to begin working on a project like this.

Ms. Donaldson shares her experience marketing a local business shopping support program in Torrington

#### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS COMMISSON**

Mr. Brett suggest the EDC focus on doing a few projects really well as a method of being recognized in the community. He gives the website and Rails to Trails projects as good focuses.

Ms. Donaldson suggests that a marketing program would help to drive traffic to the town's EDC website. She also suggests tapping in the Main Street Center as we are a member.

Ms. Lloyd suggests an on-line town newsletter.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Ms. Lloyd to adjourn

**SECOND** by Ms. Donaldson to adjourn at 8:04PM; unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Charest