

Special Meeting
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AND TOWN CENTER REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 11, 2020
VIA ZOOM ONLY

PRESENT

TCRC: Marilyn Ozols, Chair; Darlene Briggs, Jim Crawford, Hiram Fuchs, Katherine Holbrook, Marcia Simon and Libby Waldron

EDC: Jim Crawford, Chair; Darlene Briggs, Kristen Meyer, Katherine Richards and Libby Waldron

Eric Knapp, Planning and Zoning Development Coordinator

JOINT MEETING:

1. Call to Order

M. Ozols called the joint meeting of the Economic Development Commission and the Town Center Revitalization Committee to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Town Center Parking Project/STEAP – Possible close out of project

E. Knapp said he's hoping to meet with Westbrook Finance Director Donna Castracane early next week to close out the project.

3. Community Connectivity Grant – Town Center Sidewalks – Project Update

E. Knapp said they have a signed contract. The funding is all set. They are trying to set up pre-construction meeting dates with Jacobson & Associates.

4. Septic Study Progress Report

E. Knapp reported that Brian Curtis from Jacobson and Associates is out in the field doing work in the Ted Lane field area. Things are moving along.

5. Initiatives

a. Westbrook Place - mural project

T. Falcone submitted sketches, and now he's working on 2 mural choices: one with a turtle, an eagle and a boat, and, the other has more archways and pergolas that look like they're part of the building. He will be receiving a check for \$5,000.00 for all of the work leading up to the actual painting of the mural. The plan is to ask the Westbrook Foundation for money for the mural.

Two of the selectmen met with E. Knapp to discuss how the project has proceeded. There was concern that the contract should have gone to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. As a result, until this has occurred, the First Selectman will not authorize payment under its terms.

Committee members feel that this mural is for the betterment of the Town Center. It is not just for one particular building. They said that Tony Falcone's work is phenomenal. His web site has some amazing mural work.

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It was suggested that members of the TCRC and EDC can make a presentation about the mural to the Board of Selectmen at its next regular meeting, on June 25, 2020.

b. Town Center Facades and Building Rear Improvement Program/Tax Incentives Program

J. Crawford said he and D. Briggs need to meet to talk and will have a report for the TCRC/EDC at their next meeting.

J. Crawford said that in the survey residents completed as part of the Plan of Conservation and Development, there was a question that asked if there was one thing that could be fixed in Westbrook, what would it be, 31% of the residents said to improve the Town Center.

c. Historic District Gateway Signage

There is money in the EDC budget for signage.

6. Minutes: Regular Meeting – May 14, 2020

This is being tabled until the next meeting.

7. Bills

TCRC	EDC
Torrison Stone & Garden \$995.00	

D. Briggs made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. L. Waldron seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

J. Crawford made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting of the Town Center Revitalization Committee and the Economic Development Commission meeting at 7:34 p.m. D. Briggs seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

- 1. Call to Order:** J. Crawford called the meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:34 p.m.
- 2. Update on New Development Applications**
E. Knapp reported that the IWC approved Datillo Village with conditions. The application will come before the Planning and Zoning Commissions. There are some issues with drainage and walking paths.

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The Vista project will start construction soon.

Oxford Academy is hoping to get their Certificate of Occupancy soon.

3. Westbrook Events - Marcia Simon

M. Simon said the article being submitted will be about people going back to work as businesses re-open after the pandemic as well as summer camps. The next deadline for Westbrook Events is in August for the fall issue.

4. Adjournment

D. Briggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 7:37 p.m. K. Richards seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

TOWN CENTER REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE:

1. Call to Order

M. Ozols called the Meeting of the Town Center Revitalization Committee to order at 7:37 p.m.

2. "Quick Hits" / Adopt-A-Spot Projects

D. Rie was not in attendance at tonight's meeting. There was nothing new to report.

3. Adjournment

L. Waldron made a motion to adjourn the Town Center Revitalization Committee at 7:39 p.m. D. Briggs seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Secretary