

MAYOR
MICHAEL J. DOODY

DEPUTY MAYOR
JOSEPH E. FAUGHNAN

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL T. PAULHUS



COUNCIL MEMBERS
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI
DANIEL ARMIN
ANTHONY S. CANDELORA
MARIE E. DIAMOND
CHRIS MANNA
GEORGE MILLER
ALFRED D. ROSE

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Economic Development Commission
April 3, 2017
Town Manager's Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Members present were Jan Finch, Elisabeth Caplan, and Chris Kranick.

Nonmembers present were Town Manager Michael Paulhus, and Town Council Member Daniel Armin.

2. Approval of Minutes
a. March 5, 2017

MOTION: Member Caplan moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2017, seconded by Member Kranick. With all in favor, motion passed.

3. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Michael Paulhus presented a site plan application to convert a residential home to a nursery at 2340 Foxon Road.

Members reviewed plans and had discussion. All agreed this was a positive project and suggested additional discussion on the esthetics of combining the addition to the existing building.

Mr. Paulhus reported that 1599 Foxon has been leveled and progress continues. The Town is receiving interest due to the visibility of the

demolition. Mr. Paulhus reported the Town Planner is compiling a list of callers and after Town Council discussion he will have some direction. Members discussed the value of having an Economic Development Coordinator to help facilitate this project along with the Town Manager.

Mr. Paulhus also discussed the budget process and upcoming hearing. Members discussed potential budget approval numbers.

Members discussed presenting to the Council during the Budget Hearing Public Comment as well as information Member Caplan received to help with the presentation.

Mr. Paulhus reported that there is an interest for a beer garden at the POCO festival. Members discussed ways to include local farmers who are producing hops and supplying local breweries. Members felt this would be a great networking opportunity for the EDC Business After Hours to be held before the festival. This led to a discussion on potential land purchase for a local farmer interested in growing hops.

Members discussed inviting Joe DeFrancesco Jr. to the next EDC meeting and Chairman Finch contacting Lindy Gold to request information on potential grants or funding for agriculture.

4. Report from Councilor Daniel Armin, liaison to Town Council

Town Council Member Daniel Armin reported that although this is a tough year financially, he is still attempting to push for a grant writer/Economic Development Coordinator. Members discussed other needs for the EDC.

5. Old Business

a. Proposed Economic Development Coordinator

Discussed under Report from Councilor Armin.

b. Update on 1599 Foxon Road.

Reported under Town Managers Report.

c. Report on POCO - Liz

Reported under Town Managers Report.

d. Agricultural Commission Brochure

Chairman Finch reported on the brochure and updated members on the enthusiasm and help received from local farmers.

6. New Business

a. Shoreline Chamber

Member Kranick reported that things are status quo at this time.

Chairman Finch opened discussion on a visit from Lindy Gold. Members discussed having a separate event dedicated to Ms. Gold speaking. Doody's, Nataz and Dalton's were suggested as potential venues. Member Kranick will investigate the possibility of the Chamber sponsoring the event.

b. REX Report

Chairman Finch reported that Town Planner Carey Duques attended the REX meeting and presented work being done on the Agricultural Brochure, with great reviews from REX members.

c. Update on Business Opportunities

Reported under Town Managers Report.

d. Review of Planning and Zoning application

Chairman Finch presented an application from Planning and Zoning (435 Foxon Road) for EDC review. Members overviewed proposed plans and had discussion. Members were pleased that the business is staying in Town and felt the plan was positive based on the design.

7. Commission Reports

a. Real Estate – Joan

Town Councilor Daniel Armin reported that the April 4th Town Council Meeting Agenda contains an RFP approval for marketing of 1599 Foxon.

b. Visitation Program – Liz

Member Caplan reported she visited Sandy's Restaurant and had a great meeting, her next visit will be to Town Line Liquors.

Chairman Finch reported she visited Honeywell, Earthwood Products, Aquatic Pools as well as a few other sites.

c. Website – Scott

Will be discussed when Scott returns.

d. EDC Coordinator – Chris

8. Correspondence

Town Councilor Daniel Armin opened discussion on area businesses who do a lot for the Town and the potential for recognition of these businesses. Members discussed this would be a way to “Spotlight” businesses who have done a lot.

Chairman Finch will contact Lindy Gold and discuss potential events for her speaking engagement.

Member Kranick mentioned Evergreen Woods as a possible venue.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Member Kranick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Member Caplan with all in favor motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Caruso
Substitute Recording Secretary