

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2014**

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Members present: John Dobos, Randy Vidal, Fred Hyatt, Michael Vickerelli, Christopher Pia, James Benson and Mary Dean

Alternates Present: Robin Greenspan

Others present: Karen Kaiser and Amy Knorr (Economic Development), Mayor John Harkins, Councilman Peter Massey (First District) and Councilman Jason Santi (Fourth District).

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

- MR. HYATT MOVED, SECONDED BY MS. GREENSPAN, TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Mayor Harkins briefly addressed the Commission. Several construction programs will be ongoing during the coming year: (1) Airport – Main Street will be closed approximately 6 weeks; (2) SAEP – Many thanks to Congresswoman DeLauro for her assistance in moving this along; and (3) Railroad Station - construction will begin this Spring.

3. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SAEP (Army Engine Plant) - Congresswoman DeLauro attended the recent press conference where preliminary plans for the site were presented. Point Stratford Renewal is working with the Town on a zoning overlay and tax district.

Exxon Mobil on Lordship. – Developer, Anthony Argento, is open to selling, leasing or developing the site. He is looking for the Town’s input. Cleanup of the site will begin in the Spring. He’s also offered to help with the Mobil Station across from the Pickle Barrel. A cash buyer is interested in opening a restaurant there.

Connecticut Distributors Inc. (CDI) – Just received zoning approval for another 45,000 sq. ft. on Lordship Blvd.

Building Permits – Stratford had \$8 million in building permits in 2008, \$6 million in permits in 2012, and \$29 million in building permits in 2013.

DECD Small Business Express Program – From January 2013 to September 2013, 16 companies in Stratford received over \$2 million in grants and loans. Company cannot have more than 100 employees to apply. Money can be used to hire employees, training or new equipment. DECD also has a job expansion program and under that program 4 companies in Stratford have created 18 new jobs.

Forest City (Keating Ford) -128 units total. Rented 30 units so far, mostly studios and one bedroom.

C-Pace – Willing to fund a brokers’ luncheon in Stratford.

CT Brownfield RDA– EDC took the Vice-President on a tour of the brownfields in Stratford. Vice President is willing to help Stratford with marketing.

- Ms. Kaiser also listed the new and/or expanded businesses in Stratford.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Stratford is celebrating its 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. A committee has been formed to plan events. Ms. Knorr and Ms. Dean are co-chairing the Committee. Some of the events planned are a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Perry House (when Perry House construction completed), a parade, Early American Festival in September, historical tours, Clam Bake at the Airport, Restaurant Week in April, etc. The theme of Restaurant week is \$16.95 and/or \$37.50. Committee looking for volunteers and donations from local businesses. Ms. Dean said anniversary paraphernalia will be sold at all events but there is also a private website where residents can order items in advance, i..e, hats, t-shirts, mugs, etc.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

EDC Planning Retreat

- Chairman Dobos suggested meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the March 11 meeting and holding the retreat then from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Mr. Benson inquired about the biking tour and whether a bike path could be extended from Lordship to Pleasure Beach. Mayor Harkins explained that Bridgeport intends to make more intensive use of the area on their side. The Long Beach West Commission had suggested some type of boardwalk but because of the piping plovers you can't make many improvements out there. A raised boardwalk might be possible.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili  
Recording Secretary