

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

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Members present: Michael Vickerelli, Randy Vidal, John Dobos, Fred Hyatt, Christopher Pia, James Benson, Robyn Greenspan (Alt.) and Brian Oliver

Others present: Karen Kaiser (Economic Development), Councilmen Jason Santi and Peter Massey, and members from the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Dobos called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

- MR. VIDAL MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. PIA, TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. UPDATE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Ms. Kaiser summarized some of the recent economic developments in Stratford:

Transit-Oriented District – Stratford and the GBRC are working with a team set up by the State DOT. The State is in support of a transit center district in Stratford.

- Contract Plating (540 Longbrook Avenue) – The State DECD has awarded the Town of Stratford a \$2.85 million Grant for remediation. Several developers are interested in this property.
- Mercer Towers - Stratford has received a \$200,000 Brownfields Grant for removal and clean-up at the Mercer Fuel towers site on Stratford Avenue.
- 576/600 E. Broadway – This property was foreclosed by the Town in July, 2014. The EPA has been very supportive in discussing plans for cleanup.
- Exit 33 Interchange – The Mayor of Milford is opposed to this Exit. He is concerned that it will divert traffic away from Milford.
- Stratford Train Station – CT DOT expects to be finished with the 109 additional parking spaces by mid-December.
- Point Stratford Renewal - The DECD has awarded \$200,000 for brownfield assessment. Legislation to create a special tax district has been signed into law.
- Stratford has received close to \$3 million in small business loans. According to Stratford's numbers this has helped retain 350 jobs and create more than 250 new jobs.
- Old Stratford Hotel on Lordship Blvd has been sold to a franchise; Town is foreclosing on a vacant property behind 99 Hawley Lane for back taxes in excess of \$460,000 (Developer is showing interest); Exxon is finally remediating its gas station on Stratford Avenue and will be selling the property; Two Roads is receiving another loan from the CT DECD for new fermenting tanks; an American Italian Restaurant is moving into Lil Mo's; a rib place is taking over Sienna.

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- Shakespeare Theater Proposals - Mr. Hyatt reported that the Shakespeare committee had its final meeting last night and chose one out of the five proposals it had received. A letter of recommendation was being sent to Mayor Harkins and the Town Council.

3. CERC TRAINING – DECEMBER – Ms. Kaiser handed out to the members information about a free 2-hour workshop regarding municipal economic development. She has signed up for December.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- The EDC will be having a joint meeting with other Boards and Commissions like last year.
- A couple members of the public asked questions which Ms. Kaiser answered.

4. OLD BUSINESS - none

5. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business before the Commission, on motion by Mr. Hyatt and seconded by Mr. Vidal the meeting adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail J. Nobili  
Secretary