



Town of Ridgefield
Economic Development Commission
400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Arnold Light
Chairman

Paul Levine
Alexander Karsanidi

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Office

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Rudy Marconi,
First Selectman
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Approved Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Commission
February 1, 2016, 7:00 PM
Small Conference Room

Present: Arnold Light, Paul Levine, Alexander Karsanidi

Guest: Rudy Marconi

Arnold Light called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Arnold Light recorded the minutes

1. Announcements

a) Next EDC Meeting March 7th, 2016

b) January 4, Minutes approval

Arnold motioned, Paul seconded, approved.

c) Alexander Karsanidi has been approved by the BOS and has been sworn in and is now a full member of the EDC.

2. Project Progress Reports

a. Downtown Retail Shopping Revitalization Report. After meeting with The Consultants (SCRE) and Rudy Marconi, the next steps are to plan a joint meeting of landlords, owners, retail merchants, the Downtown Retail Association and the Retail Council of The Chamber of Commerce to discuss the next steps. The meeting has been planned for February 29 in the Town library and it was decided by the BOS to open the meeting to the general public because of "The Freedom of Information Act".

3. Rudy Marconi joined the discussion about the EDC's desire to support P&Z for the adoption of zoning regulations to the Route 35 & 7 Neighborhood Business Zone (NBZ) to bring the majority of these currently non-conforming properties into compliance, ensuring proper P&Z control of existing and potential land uses.

We then went on to discuss the Branchville TOD plan, and the need for an EDC volunteer to be on committee. Right now that would be very difficult due to the fact that there are only 3 EDC members.

Finally the Schulmberger issue was discussed and the three options presented in a survey. 1. Municipal Option – Most expensive costing tens of millions of dollars and pretty much all taxpayer funded; 2.- Cultural Option – Will cost several millions of dollars and will be paid for by a combination of private/public funding; 3.- Land bank Option – Will cost less than \$1 million. The BOS will wait until the spring to revisit these options.

4. The EDC now has openings for four new commissioners. EDC has requested ads be placed in Hamlet Hub and on the town website.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM