

May 20, 2013

**TOWN OF STERLING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Sterling was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2013.

Those in attendance were:

Jeffrey Donaldson – Chairman

James Patacchiola – Vice Chairman

Kevin Sanders – Secretary

Michael Pineo

Paul Rehrig

Brian Patacchiola – Selectman

Mr. Donaldson, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order and Kevin Sanders, Secretary, kept minutes of the meeting.

The first item of business was to review minutes from the previous meeting. After discussion, and upon a motion made by Mr. Pineo and seconded by Mr. Patacchiola, the minutes were unanimously approved, with minor corrections from Mr. Donaldson.

The second order of business was continued discussion on a business database. Mr. Donaldson forwarded a list from the state. After review Mr. Pineo mentioned that several businesses on the list were no longer in business and Mr. Rehrig mentioned we need update the list to omit these companies but Mr. Sanders said we shouldn't lose track of these business because we need to see why businesses are leaving. Mr. Donaldson mentioned there was a huge drop off from number employees in the large businesses and the small businesses. We need to weed down the list to make it more manageable. The employee counts were disputed and question for many businesses on the list. The interview process should solidify these numbers. Mr. Donaldson mentioned that the information is great we need to look beyond the list. Mr. Rehrig mentioned that it might make sense to buy some data from a data farm like Dun& Bradstreet. Mr. Rehrig and Mr. Sanders will look into taking the html data from Mr. Donaldson and converting it to a usable format for our database. Mr. Rehrig will develop a short introductory survey and Mr. Donaldson will develop a mission statement/ introduction to the commission. The commission will take the list and each member will take a portion of the list.

Mr. Donaldson gave an update on the Clark University MPA Intern. Mr. Donaldson has not heard back from the program.

Mr. Rehrig compiled the information Mr. Sanders provided the Commission. This data can be formulated into surveys, personal outreach questionnaires, etc. Mr. Donaldson will ask that the chairman of the Marlborough EDC to attend a future meeting to discuss their program. Mr. Sanders suggested we have a business open house this summer to provide outreach to local

businesses. The Commission discussed venues and discussed potential money the commission had at its disposal with Selectman Brian Patacchiola.

Other business included discussion about the town's strong points which included an abundance of liquor licenses and the Sterling Inn sale. Mr. Sanders mentioned developing a website in future.

Mr. Mackey left an impact study for the Sterling Airport with the group for their information.

Future talking points:

- Private vs. public database – There will be a public database for the public with basic data and a more complex database for the committee to use as a research and development tool.
- Have the Water Department come review state of the town's water system as a future meeting.
- Mr. Sanders will try to get Shape files and to add more data to Google fusion maps once we have the data for the database.

Next meeting Monday, June 24, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned as voted.

Kevin Sanders, Secretary