

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
March 17, 2016 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Susan Thorner, Kate Rietberg, Brian Banak, Gloria Smith, Lynda Montefusco Absent: Roger Tracy
Also present: EDC Director Patrick McMahan, and Town Planner Bill Hawkins

Chairman Howard Orr greeted everyone, Good Morning. Happy St. Patrick's Day.
He called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The Chairman asked for any changes, corrections in the February 18, 2016 Minutes. Ms. Rietberg asked for a correction in her name Rietberg and Ms. Susan Thorner asked to include her name as attending. Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes as amended; the motion was seconded and minutes were approved.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of March 3 tour were voted approved.
Citizen Comment: None

Chairman Orr introduced the Town Planner, Mr. Bill Hawkins.
Mr. Hawkins stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission is considering a text amendment for an array of solar power, no more than 1MW. This amendment has been in the Public Hearing stage and the question is, can large scale ground mounted solar arrays be taxed? This has not been determined. Could they be taxed in the industrial zone or light industrial zone?

The question is, does Suffield still want these solar arrays in the PDIP zones? Obviously the question would go away if we decided not to tax these facilities. We need a clear answer, yes or no. To be safe for now, we should say not allowed. We wait for a State decision.

Ffyer Place – We have different facilities to deal with on Ffyer Place. We may have to use a private animal control facility. The Railroad has no interest in the line to Ffyer Place, (an abandoned rail). The Town would prefer to sell the entire parcel. Could we use spot zoning? It could be done but there is a process, requires Town meeting.

The Suffield's Beautification grant pays only for the design and construction of commercial signs.

Light Industrial - Mr. McMahan noted that utilities extension project design is complete. We can do Phase I, and the project is ready to bid. We only have funds to do Phase I. We need additional funds of approximately \$900,000 to complete our original plan. Other funds may be obtained by various grants and possibly be placed in ACCE in the future.

Tour of 1760 Mapleton Avenue - Has an environmental study been done on that property? It is on the Historical National Register. This property does have a sewer system. The Commission discussed various options.

Lots 13 and 14 are still up for sale in the Industrial Park.

The Greenhouses were approved; 11 acres, this is going to be a great project for Suffield. The Board of Selectmen discussed an abatement plan for all farmers.

AG DAY was held in the capitol, March 16 and Suffield had a banner, materials and promoted Suffield, a Town of Farms. Kathy Dunai baked 600 wonderful delicious Suffield cookies for people to enjoy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

EDC.Min.March.17.2016