

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
May 6, 2010**

1. Roll Call

Bryers - present	Durocher - absent	Fish - present	Kermes - absent
Mazzier - present	Moffitt - absent	Viele - present	White – present
Marcus – present	Tanzi - present		

2. Minutes of March 4, 2010 Meeting

Viele moved, Bryers seconded; motion carried: "To approve the minutes of March 4, 2010 as presented."

**VOTE:**           Bryers – aye                   Mazzier – aye                   Marcus – aye  
                  Tanzi – aye                   Viele – aye                   White - aye

Ms. Marcus and Ms. Tanzi provided brief background profiles as requested by Chair Fish.

3. Comprehensive Community Plan Review – Economic Development Element

Discussion ensued regarding the recent workshop with the Planning Board held on April 27, 2010.

Mr. Nickerson provided an explanation of Special Legal Counsel's Letendre's discussion of traditional zoning versus performance based zoning. Traditional zoning, sometimes referred to as Euclidean zoning, establishes use codes permitted within specific zoning districts. This method has historically been used by municipalities and is presently in place under the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance. Conversely, performance based zoning is a less stringent method whereby a particular proposed use of property is reviewed by appropriate local boards and commissions and is either approved or denied based on its anticipated impacts to the general characteristics of the surrounding area within which the project is proposed. Review of a project under a performance based approach assesses site assets in relationship to adjacent and nearby land use.

Mr. Nickerson will research this matter and provide additional materials to the Committee for their edification.

Members were in agreement that, based on information provided, it appears that a change from traditional (i.e. Euclidean) zoning to performance based zoning is unlikely to occur in the near future with the possible exception of special area management districts. As such, there is a consensus among members that the draft changes to the existing use code tables should be seriously reviewed by the Planning Board and staff within a reasonable timeframe.

Discussion ensued regarding promotion of “green” industries within Town. Mr. Nickerson will speak to the Planning Director for clarification regarding applicable terminology to ensure that the Planning Board and Economic Development Committee have a similar understanding. At this time it is uncertain whether the term “green” refers to: the product manufactured (i.e. bio-degradable); the facility (i.e. low carbon footprint, LEED certified); or, a combination of both.

#### 4. Other Items of Concern and Interest

Members discussed the need for the Town to promote the existing local tax incentives in a more pro-active manner. It was noted that many existing businesses are unaware that such incentives are available in South Kingstown.

Mr. White provided a status report of the proposed local trolley service. At this time the project is less than \$1,000 from meeting the budget threshold. Total trolley stops have been increased from nine to twelve along the route. Trolley service will begin each morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn on Rt. 138. It is anticipated there will be seven round trips per day with service ending at the Holiday Inn at 10:00 p.m.

#### 5. Adjourn

Viele moved, Tanzi seconded; motion carried: “To adjourn.”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. by unanimous vote.