

**Town of Somers
Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 308
Somers, CT. 06071**

**EDC Minutes
December 6, 2010
Somers Town Hall
Selectmen's Conference Room**

Call to Order

Chairman Lou Bachetti called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Attendance

Members present were David Reed, Ron Elliott, Maura Gardner, Rick Cheney, and Lou Bachetti. Member absent, Robert Schmidt. Guest present were Michael Freedman, Keith Burger, and Gary Schiessl.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by David Reed and seconded by Rick Cheney that the minutes of November 18, 2010 be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

Michael Freedman/New England Regional Chili Cook-off

Guest, Michael Freedman gave a brief overview of the history of the chili cook-off since his involvement approximately four years ago. The cook-off draws approximately 5-7 thousand attendees for a 5-hour period and features approximately 64 cooks and 14 vendor sites. It was further explained that the primary beneficiary of the cook-off was Champ's Place, a local food shelf, where one and one half tons of canned goods were donated. The event will again be held in town and is scheduled for May 7, 2011. An inquiry was made as to how the commission may be able to support the event. Suggestions were presented and discussion pursued concerning what may be done to assist the sponsor of the event as well as the artisans and eating establishment in the community. The commission agreed to take the suggestions under advisement.

December after Hours networking meeting

One of the local businesses has offered to host a Holiday gathering and Rick Cheney agreed to follow-up on the feasibility of coordinating the event for this holiday season.

2011 business directory project wrap up

The chair handed out the 2011 business directories to the members of the commission and further announced that town wide distribution of the directory will accompany the North Central News Publication, which will be distributed later this week. The finished product consist of 74 pages , including front and back cover and saw a significant increase in ad placement and size of placement in this issue. Congratulations go out to those involved in creating this directory and especially to Jeanne Reed for the dedication and Herculean effort in its coordination.

EDC goals 2011

The Commission's goals for 2011 were reviewed and approved and the Chairman will publish the list.

Discussion/ fire marshal inspection fees

David Reed provided the commission with a list of Fire Marshall fee types, their corresponding value charged and a comparative analysis of what other towns charge. A motion was made by Rick Cheney, seconded by David Reed and passed unanimously that discussion and potential recommendations be tabled until the January meeting in order to give the commission members ample time to review the handout.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Ron Elliott and seconded by Lou Bachetti to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ronald L Elliott, secretary
Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.