

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

**Meeting Minutes 11/08/10**

**Present:**

Rick Cheney  
Lou Bachetti  
Maura Gardiner  
David Reed

**Absent:**

Bob Schmidt  
Ron Elliott

**Guests:**

None

Lou Bachetti called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

- **Approval of the previous minutes**
  - Commission members received the minutes via e-mail.
    - Maura Gardiner made a motion to accept the minutes.
    - David Reed seconded the motion.

*(4 – Yes, 0 – No, 0 – Abstain)*
- **Correspondence – Lou Bachetti**
  - There was no correspondence.
- **Approval of 2011 Meeting Schedule**
  - Lou Bachetti presented the Commission members with a proposed schedule of meeting dates for calendar year 2011.
    - Rick Cheney made a motion to eliminate the August scheduled meeting date.
    - David Reed seconded the motion.

*(4– Yes, 0 – No, 0 – Abstain)*

  - David Reed made a motion to accept the amended meeting schedule for calendar year 2011.
  - Rick Cheney seconded the motion.

*(4– Yes, 0 – No, 0 – Abstain)*
- Lou noted that the September and November meeting dates fell on the second Mondays of the month – because of Labor Day in September and the elections in November.

- **Projects Update**

- Somersville Streetscape – David Reed
  - ✓ The work bid packages are out and being picked up.
  - ✓ The work is scheduled for completion in mid-June.
- Wayfarer Signs – Lou Bachetti in Bob Schmidt's absence.
  - ✓ New paper article on the signs was very good.
  - ✓ Signs may be located too high up for people to notice.
    - David Reed made a motion to ask the project chair to request Public Works to lower the signs so they can be more easily seen.
    - Rick Cheney seconded the motion.

(4– Yes, 0 – No, 0 – Abstain)
- Business Directory – Lou Bachetti
  - ✓ The directories are currently being printed
  - ✓ They are on schedule to be distributed the first week in December with the North Central News.
  - ✓ We had a third more ads this year than last year.
  - ✓ A tri-fold brochure listing restaurants in Somers is included.

- **Review Unemployment Statistics – David Reed**

- The statistics reflect labor market information through September 2010.
  - ✓ The number of people in the Somers labor force is down by 9 workers to 4,746.
  - ✓ A total of 4,343 Somers residents were employed – up 36 workers.
  - ✓ The number of Somers residents unemployed was down by 45 to a total of 403.
  - ✓ The unemployment rate for Somers was 8.5% - down by 1.7%.
  - ✓ The non-working gap between the labor force and the employed is getting smaller. The lessening of the gap could be accounted for by people becoming disillusioned and dropping out of the labor market.

- **2010 “After Hours” Networking Meeting – Rick Cheney**

- The event is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 at the office of Connecticut Commercial Realty and Select Homes.
- The First Selectman, Lisa Pellegrini will meet and greet attendees.
- The newest business in town, Home Sweet Home, will be allowed time to talk about their business.
- There is a new group of people responding to the invitations e-mailed out.
- There were forty (40) businesses without e-mail addresses that were sent invitations by Jeanne Reed through the mail service.
- There will be a raffle prize.
- the RSVP date is November 12<sup>th</sup> and a reminder e-mail sent out on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Other Business**

- Mike Freedman, the promoter of the Chili Cook Off will be added to the December agenda.
- The agenda will also include a discussion concerning the numerous complaints about the excessive and repetitive fees being charged for inspections by the Fire Marshall.
- December's agenda will also include an item pertaining to the EDC Goals for 2011. The Commission members should develop at least two goals and be prepared to discuss them.
  - Davis Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting
  - Maura Gardiner seconded the motion.*(4– Yes, 0 – No, 0 – Abstain)*

Lou Bachetti adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Gardiner for Ron Elliott  
Secretary  
Town of Somers  
Economic Development Commission