

# Wickford Economic Development Advisory Board

## MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2019

Members Present: Palmer Beebe, George Brennan, Curtis Givan, Carrie Kolb, Shelagh Michaud

Also attending: Liz Dolan (EDA), Bee Givan, Linda Piedra, Jill Chirnside (public)

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 5:37pm
2. **Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-6(c), notice of this meeting has been posted on the Secretary of State's website**
3. **Minutes** – WEDAB minutes 12/4 were approved as presented
4. **Old Business**
  - a. **Updates 55 Brown St. (Annex)** – Dolan informed the board that all required steps were proceeding. The property needed subdividing. Clulow needed a special use permit for the theater. Although the final sale was not imminent, everything was moving in a positive direction. The target for closing is end of March.
  - b. **Brown Street Overlay District Ordinance** – Beebe asked Dolan if the advertisement has been published in order to solicit applications for the Design Guideline Committee. It had not but should be soon.
  - c. **Parking & Shuttles** – Beebe invited members of the Wickford Plan Committee to comment on WPC's discussion with regards to parking. Two members were present and declined to comment. Brennan had been in attendance of WPC's meeting and informed that parking was discussed at length and several possibilities were discussed. Beebe noted that Joan Earhardt from WPC had requested a joint meeting 1/17 at their regular meeting time. He asked for attendance commitments in order to ensure quorum and received unanimous consent. Dolan said she would request attendance by a representative of the Police Department. Beebe questioned the necessity of police attendance. The police position was that signage and an enforcement budget would be necessary. Brennan reiterated that resources were limited currently. Michaud emphasized that parking related income should be explored by analyzing income from citations and permits. Dolan suggested that both WEDAB and WPC could recommend that a parking study be done prior to passage of a parking ordinance. Beebe said that any recommendation should come from the joint meeting. Brennan reminded the board of his request for a parking sign indicating municipal parking behind Rite-Aid. Beebe added that ride-sharing is becoming more commonplace and municipalities are less concerned with parking. Uber, Lyft, car pooling, valet parking, etc.. have lessened the need for public parking.

## 5. New Business

- a. **Where's the Beef?** - Beebe introduced the topic by noting concern over the addition of restaurants in Wickford. With sewers and liquor licenses the only sure addition to the village seems to be the theater and restaurant at the Annex. Michaud mentioned the 'Wilson's' building being for sale again. Kolb stated that Wickford needed a breakfast place or a brewery. Michaud wondered how many liquor licenses had been issued for Wickford. The popular narrative has been nine. After a tally there are three existing and three granted but not issued.
- b. **HistWick Outreach** – Beebe made note of a donation to the Wickford Village Association (merchants) of \$500 from HistWick. On behalf of the merchants he expressed appreciation.

## 6. Future Business

**Agenda Item Suggestions** – Michaud asked “What can we (WEDAB) do to help fill vacancies?” This would be a good agenda topic. Also food trucks in the village could be a good idea.

7. **Other & Public Comment** – Brennan asked why Wickford Plan Committee had not been reappointed.
8. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.