

Wickford Economic Development Advisory Board

MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Members Present: Palmer Beebe, George Brennan, Curtis Givan, Björn Wellenius

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 6:07pm
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 1/8 were approved as presented
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Updates 55 Brown St. (Annex)** – The process is moving forward. The buyer Chef Clulow is arranging for financing and a title search. The final footprint of the Annex property is being defined. Plans and drawings are being finalized for town approval.
 - b. **WPC/WEDAB Parking Subcommittee Progress** – Brennan reports that the group of six including 3 from WEDAB and 3 from WPC will meet tomorrow (2/6) at the home of one of the group. Once the subcommittee has reached a consensus they will report their recommendation back to the greater joint WEDAB/WPC group.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Filling Vacancies** - Beebe led by noting discussion at the previous meeting where several members were wondering what WEDAB could do to help fill vacancies. Brennan wondered how many vacancies there were. He listed the Netties Popcorn location which is to be Alma. Next was the building south of Tate's which is being fitted as a pizza parlor. The olive oil shoppe is still inactive but not vacant. The small building access from Wickford El is being rehabbed for a real estate agency. Wickford El is empty. NK is currently composing an RFP for WEL. The old Town Hall is vacant but the Town Council is currently exploring options all of which include refurbishing some portion of the building and reoccupying it. Wellenius mentioned that the energy of the Town Council was impressive. They are anxious to get things done. The old Kayak Center in the Ring Building is empty. The Wilson's building is vacant and for sale. This building is a non-contributor to the federal historic district so it's ripe for redevelopment however the sale price is \$1.9 mil so it will be difficult to justify in Wickford's current climate. Dolan has reported via email that Wickford on the Water has been sold but the particulars are not known at present. The board concluded that filling vacancies was market driven and

there was little WEDAB could do except monitor activity and remain available to assist if asked.

6. Future Business

Agenda Item Suggestions – none

7. Other & Public Comment – none

8. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.