

Minutes
Newton Business Advisory Committee
Thursday, August 14, 2014

- I. **Open Business Meeting** - The meeting was convened at 3:00. Attendance: Joe Beaman, Donny Setzer, Josh Cummings, Tom Warlick, Jerry Hodge, , Jeremy Petty

Absent: Don Essary, Tony Jarrett

Visitors: Lisa Crump, John Stiver, Mayor Anne Stedman

Staff: Rob Powell

- II. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the March 13th meeting were approved (Beaman/Cummings). The minute of the June 12th meeting were approved (Cummings/Warlick).

III. Ongoing Business and Updates

- DNDA – Rob Powell advised that the DNDA would be voting on new officers today, and that the 501 (c) 3 tax exempt status was reinstated. Josh Cummings named the new members on the DNDA board.
- Wayfinding – Rob Powell updated the Committee on the communications with DOT on the wayfinding plan. The DOT still has not issued an encroachment agreement. A motion was made by Josh Cummings, seconded by Joe Beaman, and approved, to request a wayfinding project implementation schedule from staff.
- Streetscape - Rob Powell advised that the streetscape design contract was being reviewed by the City attorney. Jeremy Petty wanted to know why paver bricks were not installed in front of Perfect Workout during the sidewalk repairs. John Stiver suggested that we get the Mayor of Morganton or Statesville to come speak to the BAC and Council about streetscape projects in their cities.
- Business Openings in 2014 – Rob Powell reported that we have had 14 new businesses open in the first half of 2014, creating 33 new jobs. John Stiver added a comment about the importance of the Technibilt expansion.
- Historic Preservation Incentives – Rob Powell explained that the state historic preservation tax credits were not extended by the state legislature, and unless they reconvene, those tax credits will expire at the end of the year.
- Downtown Buildings Tour – Jerry Hodge reviewed the tour of 5 downtown properties that the BAC hosted on July 17th. For the October tour, the Committee plans to invite builders, developers, real estate agents and architects. Donny Setzer suggested we include successful developers from nearby towns as well as from Catawba County. Lisa Crump suggested inviting Charlotte and Asheville commercial lenders and bankers. The Committee discussed the potential for developing downtown upper floor residential units, and John Stiver said that the BAC should travel to Salisbury to see what has been done there with downtown living.

- IV. **Staff Report** – Rob Powell reported on recent business and real estate activity.

V. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2014.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm so that members could attend the Public Workshop at OPOP on downtown ordinances.

The minutes were approved on September 11, 2014 by the Business Advisory Committee
Rob Powell, Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.