



Economic Sustainability Commission

*301 West Main Street
Carrboro, North Carolina 27510
Minutes from May 11, 2016*

The following members were present: Bob Saunders, Terri Turner, Matt Neal, Shelia Walsh Reedy, Robert Hash, Bill Thompson, Kim Calandra, Beven Ramsey, Dan Mayer and Board Liaisons Sammy Slade and Randee Haven-ODonell.

The following staff members were present; Annette Stone, ECD Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Bob Saunders. There was a motion made by Shelia Walsh Reedy and seconded by Bill Thompson to approve the April 13, 2016 minutes of the ESC.

The meeting began with a review and discussion of the duties and responsibilities of the ESC. Staff reviewed the duties and pointed the ESC members to a training video provided by the town. In addition, staff reviewed the current plans including the Local Living Economy Task Force Recommendations and Creating Carrboro Economic Future. Finally, Ms. Stone reviewed the Economic Development Plan update that the ESC has been working on in the past year and asked for feedback from the ESC.

Several ideas emerged out of the conversation as “low hanging fruit” and easily implemented actions to support and enhance current programs, such as the town’s Revolving and Business Loan Funds. Matt Neal suggested the ESC print up “calling cards” with info regarding the loan funds. Mr. Neal stated the best promotion is word of mouth and that the ESC should be talking to people about the program.

There was an interest in emphasizing micro-lending and ways to get non-profits like El Centro more involved. There was a suggestion to have the brochure translated into Spanish. Another suggestion was to have a graduate student look at underutilized space and identify potential affordable commercial opportunities. Another was to develop a green business guide to help in loaning out funds from the Energy Efficiency Loan Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.