



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Rep From NEOTEC Visits Salem

Last Friday a representative from the Northeast Ohio Trade and Economic Consortium (NEOTEC) visited Salem and spoke with local economic, political, and business professionals.

Several weeks ago Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown contacted NEOTEC and spoke with President and CEO Ron DeBarr regarding the possibility of scheduling a meeting in Salem.

Brown said that he “felt a visit from NEOTEC would help continue the Salem community’s recent discussion about economic development.”

Representing the Columbiana County Port Authority, Tracy Drake scheduled the meeting with Mr. DeBarr at the Salem Chamber of Commerce for last Friday afternoon.

The Columbiana County Port Authority is a member of the NEOTEC Board of Trustees.

According to the organization’s website the mission of NEOTEC is to, “promote domestic trade, international trade, and global competitiveness of the region and its businesses.”

The organization has two primary areas of focus. One is to serve as administrator of Foreign Trade Zone 181 on behalf of the Joint Office of Economic Development. Second the organization is dedicated to developing, “Northeast Ohio’s logistics infrastructure resources into a seamless transportation system which offers time, cost and flexibility options to firms shipping to and from Northeast Ohio.”

Mr. DeBarr’s presentation included an overview of NEOTEC’s organization and structure. He also answered several questions about Foreign Trade Zones and corresponding risks and benefits.

A large group consisting of about thirty people attended the meeting, including many members from the Salem Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Penny Traina and Recorder Craig Brown represented county government at the meeting. Salem City council members Clyde Brown and Gregg Oesch also were in attendance, as well as city auditor Jim Armeni. Also Perry Township Trustee Jerry Wolford was present.

Brown said that he was pleased with the meeting’s attendance and said that Tracy Drake and the Salem Chamber’s Audrey Null did a “great job at making the meeting happen and getting the word out.”

The Columbiana County Port Authority’s Tracy Drake led the meeting and shared closing remarks with county recorder Craig Brown.