

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 – 7:00PM

PRESENT: John Burdick, Shelley Lloyd, Polly Pobuda, Brian Watson, Meg Toro and interim Secretary Laurie Boyan

ABSENT: Jack Casey, Donna Laplante and Alternates Bill Baxter, Debbie Ventre

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Kathryn Boughton Reporter for Republican American arrived at 7:10pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brian Watson called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. SECRETARY RESIGNATION

Chairman Brian Watson accepted Secretary Debbie Ventre's resignation. The Commission expressed that Debbie will be greatly missed as the Secretary. Debbie Ventre has continually gone above and beyond for the Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION Ms. Lloyd, second Mr. Burdick, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 regular meeting.

Unanimously approved. Ms Toro abstained.

4. LITCHFIELD HILLS TRIATHLON

Ms. Lloyd provided an update regarding the generous gift cards provided to the Triathlon. Ms. Lloyd discussed how the announcer will have a key job in presenting the gift cards. Ms. Lloyd asked for a volunteer to hand out maps. Ms. Toro offered to assist with that task from 8:00 am – noon.

Ms. Lloyd inquired about the \$200.00 allocated to the event and how it may be spent. Discussion ensued.

MOTION Mr. Burdick, Second Ms. Pobuda to use the \$200.00 to purchase food. *Unanimously approved.*

Ms. Lloyd further stated if anyone was interested in volunteering to arrive between 7:30am and noon and report to the announcers table located at the finish line at Brodie Park.

5. CT MAIN STREET RENEWAL

Chairman Brian Watson indicated the cost is \$750.00 annual. Chairman Watson wanted to know where the Commission stood on renewal?

Discussion ensued about their contributions and whether we were utilizing their services to the fullest potential. It was further discussed if the EDC did not renew now that they may be able to join midyear.

MOTION Ms. Pobuda, second Ms. Toro, not to renew it. *Motion approved* - Mr. Watson, Ms. Pobuda, and Ms. Toro voted in favor, Ms. Lloyd against, Mr. Burdick abstained.

6. OPEN FARM DAY

Chairman Watson sent out an email to local farms to question if they would be interested in participating in Open Farm Day.

6 Farms replied in favor (Connecticut Valley Winery, Taylor Farm, Gresczyk Farms, Hayward Farm, Barden Farm, Jerram Winery)

1 Maybe (Lindell Flower Farm due to potential land surface issues)

5 Not Interested (Millstream, Marwin, Peter Steadman, McCarthy and Jersey Tree Farm not interested for various reason)

Discussion ensued regarding the EDC budget, cost of signage, location of existing signage, and who printed the signage. It was further discussed that the participating farms will be required to plan their own events, raffles and carry their own insurance for this event. The EDC will solely market the Farm Day Event.

Chairman Watson will send an email to farms looking for a commitment to the above mentioned structure of the event.

7. UPDATE FROM TRAILS COMMITTEE

Mr. Baxter was unable to attend the EDC meeting but was able to provide an update via email dated June 13, 2021 to Commission Secretary Debbie Ventre.

Mr. Baxter stated that there is no additional information to report regarding Rails to Trails as the recently scheduled meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum. RTT meeting to be scheduled soon.

8. BUDGET PLANNING

Chairman Watson asked if there was anything new?

Discussion ensued regarding the \$6,000.00 budget. The Commission discussed allocating funds:

Printing and Expenses 1,500.00

Secretary Salary 975.00

Triathlon 200.00

Town Events 1,000.00

NW CT Chamber \$200.00

Further discussion will be taken up at the next meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Ms. Pobuda noted that things are moving rapidly with the Senior Housing located by the former Waring property. Discussion ensued.

10 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Mr. Burdick, second Ms. Pobuda to adjourn at 8:15pm.

Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted.

Laurie Boyan, Interim Commission Secretary
EDC Draft Minutes – June 14, 2021