

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## Minutes of the Meeting of March 23, 2022 on Zoom

*A virtual/telephonic meeting will be held via Zoom as the result of publicly declared Covid-19 state emergency necessitating remote meetings.*

Commissioners Present: Ani Chaghatzbanian, Chairman; Peter Cozzolino, Makayla Silva, Simon McDonald, Paige Miglio, Jim Donegan, Julie Nash.

Advisors present: Julie Nash

Also present: Cassandra Schull, Makayla Silva

Absent: Paige Miglio, Michael Moses

I. Introductory Comments – Julie Nash/Ani Chaghatzbanian

II. Tourism Update:

Review of Tourism meeting with Jim Donegan, presentation to follow  
Marina Bags – stickers, totes, boat key, hats – Cassie work on ordering

MPI update: Pete mentioned he has a 1pm meeting with Simon from the Chamber and Bud

- President Chaghatzbanian asked for a summary email to be sent. Makayla mentioned Scott could potentially assist
- Adopt a spot program: Nell might assist with business owners and list of names
- Nash mentioned it's a good idea to start small to make it attainable, not too much at once
- MPI cleanup day – hold off until meetings start one time per month

III. Julie introduce Jim Donegan for tourism marina update

Jim Donegan – We are gearing up for 3<sup>rd</sup> season at the landing with a lot of interest – last year a great year at marina. Transient boaters most popular. We have new booking system that is working great:

DockWa Link for Bookings: [https://dockwa.com/explore/destination/pwcedvm-milford-landing-marina?utm\\_campaign=marina\\_site\\_referral&utm\\_medium=web\\_badge&utm\\_source=pwcedvm-milford-landing-marina&form=transient](https://dockwa.com/explore/destination/pwcedvm-milford-landing-marina?utm_campaign=marina_site_referral&utm_medium=web_badge&utm_source=pwcedvm-milford-landing-marina&form=transient)

This year we have increased marketing for individuals to get more boaters – started marina reservations with DockWa. We are also having a 30x72ft pavilion by public works being installed with goal to be complete by Memorial Day – original building is a 1930's sewage plant with a lot of character to be updated, excited for more permanent pavilion.

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE - Nash

2020 BEAT 2019, and 2022 is set to beat 2020 more in a decade. CBIA labor statistics and who is doing the best – construction is in best recovery – it never really stopped – construction is huge. Everything is coming back – housing permits 2021 – 199 with more room for growth only had 161 during pandemic – already moving ahead – tourism and travel huge numbers, 50% prior year, 90% in air passage, Avelo adding new locations opens so much more tourism.

ARPA Projects – Post covid economic strategic plan – will give commission a road map for MPI and City to create a plan to help provide recovery road map. Working on housing plan which is requirement through state, plan hopefully come to completion soon and provide road map.

ARPA Road map – Grant needs someone to hire – can't launch until new role filled.

GoMen NY coming next month to do real estate audit for businesses and provide business retention and attraction.

V. Chamber Update - SIMON

Friday – event BBA, concerts start May 27 for Fridays after 5 – Salsa merengue band etc. Adopt a spot, Devon Business Council in process of forming formally. Lots of ribbon cuttings, gift basket Hometown Buffet is there – My Café right next door – scratch best coffee in Milford. Breakfast pizza.

PAIGE MIGLIO – Tons of events upcoming sales for next month have died, went from being careful to opening it up and seen low interest – Hot Club from Black Rock, Drop Party -

VI. Standing Items & Status Reports

A. Organization Reports - ALL

B. Assistance  
- Communication - ALL  
- Community Projects – ALL  
- Collaborations – ALL

C. Action Items  
Meet with MPI

VII. Identify Next Steps – ALL

- A. Gaps
- B. Additional assistance & action items
- C. Next roundtable meeting: TBD
- D. Invited speakers

**Interested Parties:**

City of Milford – Julie Nash  
Economic Development Commission – Ani Chaghatzbanian  
Milford Arts Council – Paige Miglio  
Downtown Milford Business Assoc – Tracy Bonosconi  
Milford Chamber of Commerce – Michael Moses  
CT Post Mall – Ken Sterba  
Board of Education – Dr. Cutaia  
Walnut Beach – Susan Patrick  
Milford Progress Inc – Bud Franke  
Devon – Vincent Averaimo  
Woodmont – Ed Bonessi  
Milford Hospital – Karen Kipfer

Lynch made motion to adjourn, motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING, 4TH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 WILL BE IN PERSON AT PARSONS GOVERNMENT CENTER.**