

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of June 25, 2014

Present: Commissioners: Robert Kapusta, Chairman, John O'Neil, Vice Chair, John DePalma, Greg Harla and Michael Lynch
Advisors: Both Absent - Julie Nash & Kathy Alagno
Absent: Suzanne Cahill & Victor Ferrante

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Kapusta called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – A motion was made by John O'Neil and seconded by Michael Lynch to approve the minutes of May 28 as presented.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- III. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Chair Kapusta commented that he met with the Mayor briefly given the fact that the 375th anniversary was underway and the many activities that were taking place. The Mayor mentioned that he met with Chris Saley and John O'Neil. The next speaker will be State Senator Gayle Slossberg.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE** – One piece of correspondence was included in the package from Julie Nash regarding The State's annual Fan-Favorite Town program that invites you to vote for your favorite Connecticut still revolutionary town and place.
- VI. **GUEST SPEAKER – JAMES MARONEY** – Chair Kapusta introduced the guest speaker State Representative James Maroney. He stated that James graduated from Yale University with a BA in economics and his many achievements. Rep. Maroney handed out a summary of the 2014 Acts Affecting Business & Jobs pamphlet. He stated that the most important item passed in the last session was getting the agreement with Sikorsky and Pratt and Whitney to stay in the State. Sikorsky agreed to stay for five years and Pratt and Whitney agreed to stay for fifteen years. Pratt and Whitney are in the process of building a new headquarters. The number of people employed by UTC is about 2,000.
The parking in downtown Milford is an extremely important issue. Rep. Maroney has a business next to the library. He is a member of

the Downtown Milford Business Association as well as a member of the Chamber. He stated that the most important item for economic development is to work on the downtown area. They are going to be creating Founder's Walk. This will be a walkway along side of the river to the side of the Fowler Building. The area will be cleaned up and tables and a memorial wall for Veterans will be established. Rep. Maroney commented that he initially had this idea more than ten years ago.

In 2006 Henry Jadach through Milford Transit had done a parking study for downtown and they concluded that behind the court house was the best place for the parking garage. However, the parking garage is tied in with the court expansion project. Rep. Maroney stated that when they approved the Litchfield court expansion it took twenty to thirty years. He has spoken with the Mayor and Julie Nash to look at other areas identified for parking. Chair Kapusta asked Rep. Maroney about an action for bonding approval. Rep. Maroney stated that he has one bonding request in and he will be submitting another bonding request soon. The first bonding approval is in for surface lots and another will be submitted soon. A discussion continued on the above two bonding approvals.

Rep. Maroney has heard complaints about the railroad bridge and how it looks. They have been speaking with DOT and they have not allowed any towns to decorate the bridge trestles. DOT is looking to allow four towns to decorate and Milford is one of the towns as a pilot program.

Rep. Maroney commented that there are changes towards business in that the State made the manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit available to LLC's when it used to only be available for C-Corp's. The smaller businesses can sell tax credits to a larger business for apprentices. There is a need for trained workers for certain manufacturing businesses. Rep. Maroney helped write a bill that went through to help students who would like to make a career in manufacturing do this in shifts after school. There are advanced manufacturing centers that work with students to get college credits for training at a Vocational Technical school after their regular day of school. These advanced centers work with students from Middle School to High School. A Berlin manufacturing company opened their own training center to train students for specific manufacturing jobs within the State. An area that the State of CT is competitive in as well is captive insurance. Rep. Maroney stated that CT used to lead the country in patents per capita and suggests we need to get back to that innovative thinking.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. DOWNTOWN PARKING & LIAISON TO P&Z BOARD – Mr. O’Neil commented that there are six brand new signs going up to direct people to the two lots down by the Scoopy Doo and Lisman Landing lots. We have the Mayor to thank for the art direction. The signs say Downtown Milford Public Parking and they are 20” by 30”. Public Works is putting these signs up. This was a joint effort between the Mayor, John O’Neil, Bob Trapp, Chris Saley and Joe Agro. John O’Neil is in the process of looking for more spots to post signage in Milford.
- B. CHAMBER – No Report.
- C. 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILFORD/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY – No Report. Activity Report attached to package.
- D. PERMIT & LAND USE PROCESS REPORT – No Report.
- E. VISITATION REPORT – Mr. DePalma stated there is a car show that will take place at Shelton Commerce Park with about 150 cars for burn victims. He commented that they should raise about \$25,000. Any child from around the country if they can get to the camp they give them a scholarship to any child in the amount of \$2,500 and it gives the child confidence. The firemen donate their time to cook, canoeing, swimming, archery, etc. Nappa who is located on Old Gate Lane gave Mr. DePalma items to make up goodie bags for the children.
- F. TOURISM – No Report.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

IX. NEW BUSINESS – None

X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY – None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. A motion was unanimously carried to end the meeting by John DePalma and seconded by Greg Harla.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E. Holden