

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of August 26, 2015
(REVISED)

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

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – A motion was made by Greg Harla and seconded by Michael Lynch to approve the minutes of July 22, 2015.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chair O'Neil stated that the two main objectives and purpose for the EDC meeting was to get to know Scott Moulton and hear about MPI. The second objective is to come to an agreement on a date for a meeting with Commercial Brokers and Developers and to finalize who to invite to this meeting. John stated that the realtors/developers need to be invited to the next EDC meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

V. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY – Ms. Nash stated that she has started the business inventory and the business survey for each business in Milford. There are 3,024 businesses in Milford. This project will take a good year to finalize all of the surveys and information needed for each business and home businesses in Milford. Ms. Nash commented that she is modeling this project after the project completed in Orange. She has spoken with Paul Grimmer in Orange about this project and how it was accomplished. Julie will forward the survey to the Commission. This project will consist of actually walking into each business in the City of Milford. A discussion continued regarding the process for this project. Kathy Alagno offered to send the survey out to all of the businesses listed with the Chamber. Julie will compose a cover letter and send to Kathy Alagno so this can be included with the survey.

Also mentioned was that Total Wine will be opening. Ms. Nash commented that Commissioner Smith will be conducting a listening tour across Connecticut. Ms. Nash suggested having the commissioner stop in Milford. Ms. Alagno suggested bringing the commissioner in to speak at the Chamber Annual meeting. There is a Mexican restaurant going in at Uno's and Smash Burger opened. It was also stated that no one has taken over the old Indigo restaurant. Ms. Alagno commented that DMBA stated that they could assist in raising the awareness of properties that are available in downtown Milford and suggested talking with Priscilla Lynn.

- VII. GUEST SPEAKER: SCOTT MOULTON** – Scott Moulton stated that MPI was founded some 20 to 30 years ago and the Chamber of Commerce created the organization. MPI was designed to be the downtown economic development agency. It is not an official City entity and it has its own corporate structure. MPI receives City grants, but it is not an automatic type of grant. They need to apply every year for funding through the City and this process has been in effect for about eight years. MPI was formed by private donations from companies such as the Milford Bank. Early on they did store front loans so they would provide loans to businesses in the downtown areas to beautify their properties. MPI commissioned Yale to do a downtown area study about ten years ago to update and take the downtown area to the next level.

Different projects have been initiated by MPI such as the lamplights in downtown, the Adopt-A-Spot program and the Wayfinding Signs project. MPI continues to work with the Public Works Dept. to finalize the Wayfinding Signs project. MPI stands for Milford Progress, Inc. The Adopt-A-Spot program has 22 locations throughout the City, which a business or a charity can adopt a piece of property and they can advertise and it helps beautify the City. The intent of having the Adopt-A-Spot revitalized is that MPI will be charging \$500 for each of the locations. Professional landscapers will be maintaining those pieces of property and non-profits can partner with businesses on the signs if they do not have the funds to Adopt-A-Spot. MPI is also partnering with the Milford Fine Arts Council where they are applying for a State bond to create Kiosks. These signs are \$10,000 to \$20,000 a sign so between the State funding, MPI funds and private donations from local businesses such as Stonebridge they are hoping to do three signs for different points of interest in Milford. Scott stated that he is excited to work with the Economic Development Commission to improve the downtown area together. He extended an invitation to EDC to attend one of the MPI meetings.

Ms. Alagno continued by stating that MPI in conjunction with the Chamber and the City have paid for the downtown plan development

study and they were asked by the City to finalize this project. The Main Street program will be a continuation of this effort. A discussion continued on the development and completion of this study and future development of Milford. Mr. Moulton also commented that the Devon Rotary will be hosting the Oktoberfest on September 26th at Fowler Field.

VIII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN PARKING – No Report.

B. CHAMBER – Ms. Alagno stated that the Chamber will be working with the DMBA to host Restaurant Week starting October 5 through October 11. Also October 10th they have a table top Expo at the Westfield Mall partnering with the Valley Chamber with 40 to 50 booths. The Irish Festival is October 19th and the Milford Arts Council has their Fair on the Green on the 19th as well. The Chamber has its Step by Step to a Healthier Milford program starting at 9 a.m. at Walnut Beach. Greg Harla stated that the EDC would like to work in synergy with all of the commissions in Milford moving forward.

C. PERMIT & LAND USE - FERRANTE/GRIFFITH – No Report.

D. VISITATION REPORT – No Report.

E. TOURISM – No Report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None.

X. NEW BUSINESS – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E. Holden