

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REVISED

MINUTES of the Meeting of February 25, 2015

Present: Commissioners: Robert Kapusta, Chairman, John O'Neil, Vice Chair, Suzanne Cahill, Victor Ferrante, Greg Harla and Michael Lynch

Advisors: Kathy Alagno and Julie Nash

Absent: John DePalma

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2015** - Chair Kapusta called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The first order of business was to elect officers. Michael Lynch nominated John O'Neil for the position of Chairman and it was seconded by Greg Harla. Chair Kapusta moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be ordered to cast one ballot. Kathy Alagno nominated Greg Harla for the position of Vice Chairman and it was seconded by Victor Ferrante. Chair Kapusta moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be ordered to cast one ballot for election of Greg Harla as Vice Chairman for the year 2015.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – A motion was made by Bob Kapusta and seconded by Michael Lynch to approve the minutes of December 10, 2014, as presented.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – No Report. Chair O'Neil requested an approval of a time change for the EDC meeting to start at 8:30 a.m. instead of 12 noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Greg Harla made a motion and was seconded by Michael Lynch to officially change the time of the EDC meeting.

APPROVED WITH 1 ABSTENTION

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

- V. CORRESPONDENCE** – None

- VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY** – Ms. Nash stated that there have been several openings of businesses in Milford. The City hosted a BondSure Program with the Greater New England Supplier Minority

Development Council and the Chamber of Commerce at the library. CT Young Professionals, which is a 700 member group, will be opening their first local board in Milford. The CTPTAP office opened in Parsons in Milford, which is an organization developed by the State and provides marketing and procurement assistance to small businesses. Train Station and downtown upgrades are moving along and there is a “call to artist’ for conceptual plans to paint the concrete on either side of the street. Suzanne Cahill added that there were two businesses that opened in Devon. Queen Zuri bake shop and also Tracy’s Dance and Praise. Julie commented that the book store was purchased and could become a wine bar. Julie also stated that there will be a kick off to summer on July 2. Dan Worroll is in charge of this event and there will be food trucks, fireworks, etc.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. DOWNTOWN PARKING & LIAISON TO P&Z BOARD – Chair O’Neil stated that he had no report. Ms. Nash commented that the property is in the process of being transferred and the leases on the property run until 2017. As soon as the transfer of property happens they will blacktop from West River Street to High Street to increase parking. The long-term plan is to use the property for a mixed-use development, which will not happen for several years.
- B. CHAMBER – Ms. Alagno stated that their annual meeting was held and the Chamber handed out awards to the local businesses for their accomplishments within the community and their own personal successes. Their guest speaker was Dr. Henry Lee from the University of New Haven.
- C. PERMIT & LAND USE PROGRESS REPORT FERRANTE/LYNCH – Mr. Ferrante stated that Joe Griffith is doing a great job on turning things around for the department. Ms. Alagno commented that she has heard that the processes have greatly improved, but there is still room for improvement. Julie recommended that anyone needing help with the process should come and talk with her. Julie is coming up with a process for the small businesses to come and talk with Community Development after meeting with Permit & Land Use. It was discussed and decided to keep this item on the agenda and have Joe Griffith come to the EDC meeting and give a quarterly report. It was also decided to take Michael Lynch off of this progress report.
- D. VISITATION REPORT – No Report.
- E. TOURISM – No Report. Ms. Nash mentioned that the Department of Arts and Culture are having a tourism outreach meeting and they report on data regarding budgeting, etc. The meeting is on

March 5th at the Madison Beach Hotel. Ms. Alagno stated that the Governor's budget has been completed and he is eliminating all funding for the regional districts so they each will lose approximately \$1.5 million each. Those funds will be going back into the general fund and the State Department of Tourism is going take over that role. The tourism districts are reaching out to all their local representatives and Chambers to support continuing financing them. Ms. Alagno feels that the City of Milford is not getting good coverage for tourism. Multiple groups can apply for tourism grants if the changes pass. The Shakespeare theatre is a project that is being worked on and also the Exit 33 exit project. Greg Harla recommended that Ray Swift promote the July 2nd event for the fireworks. Ms. Cahill asked for a letter for the support of the Shakespeare theatre.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS – None.

X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY – The Commission thanked Bob Kapusta for his service to the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E. Holden