

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of April 22, 2015

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

Advisors: Kathy Alagno and Julie Nash

Absent: Robert Kapusta

Public: Arts Council – Paige Miglio; DMBA – Priscilla Lynn

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – A motion was made by Suzanne Cahill and seconded by Victor Ferrante to approve the “Revised” minutes of February 25, 2015 and the minutes of March 25, 2015.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chair O'Neil stated that with his initial meetings as being Chair, he would like to understand exactly what the responsibilities are of the major entities involved in economic development within the City of Milford. Chair O'Neil thanked Ms. Alagno for her presentation and summary of the Chamber of Commerce activities and responsibilities at the March 25th meeting. Chair O'Neil commented that the commission invited two additional major entities to the April 22nd meeting; Milford Arts Council – Paige Miglio and Downtown Milford Business Association (DMBA) – Priscilla Lynn. Chair O'Neil met with the Mayor and he asked that the commission members itemize projects that the commission would like to undertake and the Mayor will itemize projects that he would like to see accomplished.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. CORRESPONDENCE – None

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY – Ms. Nash commented about River Street Wednesdays and the activity within the City. Mr. Harla asked if there were any updates on the space where Indigo occupied. Ms. Nash stated that there were eight submissions, went down to four and two have countered. Ms. Nash mentioned Bike Milford and invited the commission to the May 30th event with Colleen

Kelly Alexander. She also stated that Jenna Lupi went to the manufacturing tour with thirteen local manufacturers and it was a successful event. The most difficult problem for the manufacturers in Milford is not the education of the workforce it is the apprenticeship. They don't have the time or the manpower to teach the students how to function on the manufacturing floor. Ms. Alagno stated that the State regulations are so strict for apprenticeships that this is what is holding this program back from working. Ms. Nash has asked the small business development council to start holding monthly office hours in the Community Development office instead of traveling to Hartford. They are also putting in a virtual office in the library and Milford is one of twenty-six cities in the State where this is happening. Ms. Nash also stated that they are starting a pilot program that will offer assistance to small businesses.

The Experiential Learning Committee is a combination of the Board of Education and the Community Development office working together to get the Capstone Project off the ground with the apprenticeships and internships moving forward. The Sustainability Committee is meant to be the umbrella for all of the organizations in Milford and to fund some projects that need funding and this committee will meet quarterly. Ms. Nash stated that she was recently appointed to the CEDAS Board, which she believes is helpful to the EDC because it positions Julie in the middle of all pertinent information.

VII. MILFORD ARTS COUNCIL INTRO – Paige Miglio stated that she has been the Executive Director for the Milford Arts Council for two years. In the two years that Paige has been in charge of the Arts Council they have rebranded and redesigned a new logo and have been promoting the Arts Council. She stated that facebook has tripled its following. Ms. Miglio commented that when she inherited this business that it was in sore shape of attention. In order for her to build a serious cultural center and to have the Arts Council be the heart of downtown Milford the building needed to be repaired. They have had the building completely repointed, sealed and masonry work has been done to the foundation with the help of Milford Transit and Henry Jadach. Ms. Miglio stated that they have just completed a small business incentive plan with U.I. and SEG for mechanical overhaul replacement. She also stated that she is working closely with Julie Nash and the Chamber to enhance economic development through projects train/photographs, train trestle and River Street Wednesdays. Their goal is to be more visible and build awareness within the public and the tourist industry. The events coming up are the Kentucky Derby, Arts Council Festival on the Green, and a free concert with picnic dinners. Theatre Camp is sold out for five weeks.

VIII. DMBA UPDATE – Priscilla Lynn commented that she is the part-time Executive Director for the Downtown Milford Business Association

and she is a small business owner in downtown Milford. Ms. Lynn stated that DMBA has a website and she handles all of the inquiries that come into the website. The DMBA members consist of mostly small local business owners and there are 75 members. They have many events scheduled to bring residents to the downtown area and they cross link sharing across all of the platforms. Events coming up are Mother's Day Show (5/9 & 5/10) Pirates Week (6/8 until 6/14), The Wine Trail (9/12), Restaurant Week (10/5 – 10/11), Small Business Month (Month of November), Tree Lighting and Lamplight Stroll (December). Ms. Lynn stated that she is working on membership; relations, retention, new members, and corporations to become supporting members of the DMBA. They have guest speakers at each monthly meeting, which is the third Friday of every month. A discussion continued on acquiring a community calendar for all of the events scheduled for the City. Chair O'Neil invited Paige Miglio and Priscilla Lynn to attend the next EDC meeting.

IX. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN PARKING – Chair O'Neil stated he spoke with the Mayor and the latest word on the Agro property is somewhere in the next two months the City will close on this project. Public Works will go in and create more parking immediately and this will add 75 parking spots. There is a committee being put together to repurpose that spot in terms of tearing down the existing building versus modifying and upgrading the building. There is also discussion being held as to all day commuter spots versus short-term shopper spots. There are no firm decisions made as of this point.

B. CHAMBER – No Report.

C. PERMIT & LAND USE - FERRANTE/GRIFFITH – Mr. Ferrante stated that Mr. Griffith will be attending the next EDC meeting.

D. VISITATION REPORT – No Report.

E. TOURISM – No Report.

F. OTHER AREAS/PROJECTS TO BE ADDED

X. EDC MISSION AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT/PROJECTS – Chair O'Neil suggested inviting key individuals from other commissions.

XI. OLD BUSINESS – None.

XII. NEW BUSINESS – None.

XIII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY – None.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E. Holden