

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES of the Meeting of June 22, 2011**

Present: Commissioners: Cyrus Settineri, John DePalma, Robert Kapusta, and Robert Stanton

Absent: Commissioners Susan Patrick and Genevieve Salvatore

Advisors: Kathleen Alagno and Robert Gregory

Press: Brian McCready, New Haven Register

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12 noon and the Chair introduced the new commissioner – John O’Neil and asked him to discuss his background.

Mr. O’Neil stated that he has worked with Milford Photo for over 6 years and lives here in Milford. Prior to Milford Photo Mr. O’Neil’s background was in the marketing, advertising and promotion business. He has become an avid photographer as a marketing consultant.

- II. Public Comments – None

- III. The minutes of May 25, 2011 were approved as presented.

- IV. Communications – Chair Settineri stated that in the packet was a letter from Attorney Win Smith ordering a gag order on the EDC with anything to do with the Avalon project and this comes about because of a suit brought about by the people of Great River represented by commissioner Genevieve Salvatore.

Also a letter regarding the plan of conservation development welcoming all commissions to submit any recommendations – this matter was tabled because of the absence of the two commissioners working on this issue.

Mr. Settineri also pointed out a letter from Building & Land Use that was sent to Jocelyn Mathiasen raving about the opportunity for this company to work with the building department. There have been some positives and some

negatives regarding the department. The department's new computer system is in place.

V. Economic Development Report

Mr. Gregory reported that it has been a quiet month but stated that the Devon Revitalization project and the Walnut Beach project are moving along. The unemployment rate dipped again which is good news. Mr. Gregory pointed out the comparison stating that Milford went down to .6% as opposed to others that increased. Mustang Sally's has opened at the former Pietro's restaurant next to Patriot Bank and Old Gate Tavern has opened in place of Salute's.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Brokers Showcase

Mr. Settineri reported that he had spoken with Kathy Alagno to make an effort to contact the governor. An email was sent with a few dates but there has been no response as of this moment.

B. Business Visitation – Mr. DePalma met with Mr. Skat at a meeting. He bought the Saturn franchise and he will be putting in a Mitsubishi franchise and he will also be building light aircraft in Milford to be finished in Stratford. Mr. DePalma and Mr. Gregory will be visiting this company. A discussion took place regarding jobs in the U.S.

C. Business Survey – No Report

D. Plan of Conservation and Development – No Report

E. Economic Development Plan – No Report

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business

Chair Settineri suggested a proposal with the mayoral election coming up in November. He thought it might be an interesting opportunity to invite the candidates to come to the EDC meeting in September or October to present their economic

policy. A discussion continued on how to put this forum together for the future meeting. A motion was made and seconded to invite the candidates to a future meeting.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The commission has been asked to submit the EDC rules and procedures to the City Clerk. Mr. Gregory will send to the commission members.

A discussion continued regarding inviting certain speakers to the EDC commission for the next couple of meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert B. Gregory