

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Unofficial MINUTES of the Meeting of March 24, 2021
Pending Committee approval

A virtual/telephonic meeting was held via Zoom as the result of publicly declared CoVID-19 state emergency necessitating remote meetings

Commissioners Present: Ani Chaghatzbanian, Chairman; Jessica Stram, Vice Chairman; Michael Lynch; Peter Cozzolino; Emily Lucibello

Advisors and Aldermen Liaisons present: Gregory Harla

Absent: John DePalma; Michael Crowley; Paige Miglio; Julie Nash

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chairman Chaghatzbanian called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2021 MEETING

Mr. Lynch and Ms Stram made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 27, 2021 meeting. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chairman Chaghatzbanian thanked Pete for his initiative to help relocate and repair Bobbette's sign. She commented on Pam moving and the search for a new Chamber president; she also mentioned a Start Up Milford group.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. MILFORD EDC CARES ACT GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW

Arciuolo's Shoe Store, LLC is a retail shop in downtown Milford; they are seeking funding for cleaning products, CoVID-protective equipment, and website improvements. Mr. Cozzolino made a motion to approve the application for Arciuolo's Shoe Store, LLC. Ms Lucibello seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

VKTRY is an eCommerce business; they are applying for funding for marketing and to rehire employees. Mr. Lynch made a motion to approve the application for VKTRY. Ms Stram seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Kidsense Therapy Group LLC is a pediatric therapy clinic; they are seeking funding to hire more staff. Mr. Lynch made a motion to approve the application for Kidsense Therapy Group, LLC. Mr. Cozzolino seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

VI. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION

Chairman Chaghatzbanian talked about putting together welcome packets for new businesses. Mr Lynch explained the format of EDC Meet and Greets when this Commission was meeting in person prior to CoVID and expressed interest in returning to that format once in-person meetings resume.

Chairman Chaghatzbanian asked Mr. Cozzolino to talk about Bobbette's sign. Mr. Cozzolino said the sign is salvaged and needs work before installing at their new location; he talked about grand opening at Milford Chamber new location and offered to attend on behalf of EDC to inquire about interim President and to organize meetings with representatives from other business groups. He asked about funding sources for Ani's welcome packets and business-sponsored greenspaces. Mr. Lynch mentioned MPI funding.

Alderman Harla explained the background and purpose of MPI. Mr. Lynch suggested speaking with Bud to begin coordination with other groups and discuss funding for beautification projects. Mr. Cozzolino offered to be liaison between EDC and MPI. He also asked about who the different groups are to invite to next EDC meeting. Mr. Lynch commented on prior efforts by Paige to collaborate with the Chamber, DMBA, MAC and Walnut Beach.

Chairman Chaghatzbanian asked about holding another Roundtable meeting and commented on Milford using a faux app, similar to Bristol's, to redirect people to DiscoverMilfordCT website. Ms Lucibello said the content would need updating. Mr. Lynch talked about the need for a map for tourists downtown. Discussion ensued.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY – None

VIII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. TOURISM – None

B. CHAMBER – None

C. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

D. VISITATION REPORTS – None

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None

X. NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting will be held on March 24, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder