

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting of January 22, 2020

Commissioners present:

Michael Crowley, Chairman; Michael Lynch; Albert Franke; Ani Chaghatzbanian

Advisors present:

Julie Nash; Nell Moll; Paige Miglio

Also present:

Makayla Silva, Milford Chamber of Commerce

Commissioners & advisors not present:

Jessica Stram; John DePalma; Pamela Staneski

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 12:12pm

II. VOTING ITEMS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Franke nominated Mr. Crowley to remain as Chairman and nominated Ms. Chaghatzbanian for Vice Chair. Mr. Lynch seconded the nominations. Unanimously approved.

B. 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

There will be no regular meeting for EDC in February. The quarterly Economic Development Roundtable will be held in its place. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Franke made and seconded a motion to approve the 2020 meeting schedule. Unanimously approved.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 MEETING

Ms. Chaghatzbanian and Mr. Franke made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019 meeting. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. FINALIZE EDC 2020 PLAN

Chairman Crowley presented a recap of EDC mission and strategies for 2020: assign Commissioners' duties and roles; schedule monthly meetings with city businesses; create standardized business questionnaire; collaborate with Chamber and MAC on QVR, volunteering and co-sponsoring events. He suggested this Committee concentrate on promotion and collaborations and asked for feedback. Discussion ensued.

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reported on property inquires, vacancies and new businesses. She commented on new Commissions being formed and talked about a grant for Milford businesses to install EV charging stations. She is working with Milford Bank and CT SBDC on a 10-week

program, Start Up Milford, beginning on April 1st. Participants will receive certification and be eligible for low interest loans. She is also working on a DECD Fam Tour. The February EDC meeting will be replaced with quarterly Economic Development Roundtable; REX Development will present regional update and meeting will be held at a local business.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN UPDATE

Director Nash estimated ground-breaking to begin this summer.

B. TOURISM

Ms Miglio talked about mini grants for artists to create park benches downtown and discussed EDC collaborating with Walnut Beach Arts and Business Association.

C. CHAMBER

Ms Noll discussed the new Chamber directory and promoting Milford tourism. She spoke about reforming some of the Chamber meetings; they are working on the map project and trying to help Devon businesses make connections. She provided background on prior years' Milford Restaurant Week; discussion ensued.

Ms Silva talked about partnering with Milford Living magazine on Best of Milford Award program. She commented on building a website for businesses to register in various categories and mentioned Chamber Lunch and Learn series, sponsored by UI, that are open for members and nonmembers.

D. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

E. VISITATION REPORTS – None

VIII. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION – None

IX. OLD BUSINESS – None

X. NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25th.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder