

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of February 27, 2019

Present

Commissioners: Michael Lynch, Chairman; Ani Chaghatzbanian; Michael Crowley; Albert Franke
Advisors: Julie Nash; Paige Miglio; Pamela Staneski

Also present: Bert Bernardi; Dan Rascoll

Absent: Greg Harla; Jessica Stram; John DePalma

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Franke and Mr. Crowley made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2019. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chairman Lynch welcomed Ms. Staneski to this Commission. He explained the mission and purpose of EDC as resource and support for businesses in Milford.

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019

Chairman Lynch nominated Mr. Crowley as Chairman and Mr. Harla remain as Vice Chairman; Ms. Chaghatzbanian seconded the nomination. Unanimously approved.

Director Nash thanked Mr. Lynch for his service and dedication to serve as EDC Chairman. Mr. Lynch expressed his appreciation for EDC advisors and thanked Director Nash for her leadership.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. CORRESPONDENCE – None

VI. BUSINESS MEET & GREET – PANTOCHINO PRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bernardi described Pantochino Productions as original musical theatre: they develop, write, compose music, build scenery and make costumes. Their shows are geared toward family audiences and have successful teen theater programs, summer programs and theater camps. They also have night programs featuring top NYC cabaret acts. Mr. Bernardi expressed a need to plan for expansion; discussion ensued.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reported on business permits, labor and new business data including comparison of 2018 data showing consistent growth. She commented on recent articles in newspaper. She gave an update on the waterfront RFI and status of Capt. John Tiki Tour boat.

VIII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN UPDATE

Director Nash announced the River/High Street sale transaction passed Planning and Zoning and Board of Aldermen. After developer receives approvals, project will take approximately 18-24 months for completion.

B. CHAMBER

Ms. Staneski reported on her experience 4-weeks into her new position as Executive Director of Milford Chamber. She discussed her plans to revamp several projects including opportunities for non-members to participate in Chamber activities and events. She also expressed her interest in Chamber helping promote all events city-wide.

C. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

D. VISITATION REPORTS

Ms. Miglio commented on the effect of social media on perception of downtown restaurants and introduced idea of collaboration among restaurants to enhance local message. Ms. Staneski offered to host an event and invite landlords to engage in conversation.

E. TOURISM

Ms. Miglio announced several upcoming events: Milford tourism website launch May 7th; NYC Grand Central Getaway on May 22nd; Milford Day at Capitol on May 30th and a Brew Tour is planned for the spring.

IX. MILFORD MARKETING – None

X. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION

This Commission discussed the downtown walking map and potential for sponsorships to assist in covering printing costs.

XI. OLD BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS – None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder