

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

Present

Commissioners:

Michael Crowley, Chairman; Greg Harla, Vice Chairman; Michael Lynch; Jessica Stram; Al Franke

Advisors:

Julie Nash; Paige Miglio; Gary Mullin

Also present:

Dan Rascoll, Downtown Milford Business Association

Absent

Ani Chaghatzbanian; John DePalma

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Lynch and Mr. Harla made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2019. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chairman Crowley reported on recent meeting to discuss EDC projects and set priorities for upcoming events.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Rascoll spoke about DMBA events: Pirates Day is June 9th and farmers market is relocating to Wasson lot for this season that runs June through October. DMBA created 2 new positions: executive director and event director; main focus on events downtown. He commented on parking deterring visitors and downtown shop owners concerned about patrons getting ticketed; signs and time limits are different; asked to highlight parking areas on website to avoid confusion. Ms. Miglio commented that better signage is needed downtown to guide people on places to park.

V. CORRESPONDENCE – None

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reported on building permits, unemployment and new business data. They are still working on River/High agreement. Upcoming events: May 7th tourism website launch party at The MAC, 5pm. April 25th LinkedIn event at Milford Photo, 8am. June 21st Make Music Day, see their website for musicians and their locations. Captain John's Tiki tour is on hold for this season. She is looking into other boating-related activities and is working on dates and routes for Milford Beer Tour and FitStyle. Discussion on commercial vacancies in the City.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN UPDATE – None

B. CHAMBER

Ms. Noll reported on career exploration dates at Foran and Jonathan Law high schools.

C. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

D. VISITATION REPORTS

Mr. Lynch commented on expansion at Bar 333.

E. TOURISM

Ms. Miglio reported on upcoming events: Milford tourism launch party with tastings from breweries and restaurants; May 22nd NYC Getaway Day - an event to encourage people from NYC to visit Milford. She also reported on Walnut Beach business district and After Hours at Firehouse Gallery.

VIII. MILFORD MARKETING – None

IX. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION

Chairman Crowley reported on recent meeting with Julie and Mike to discuss upcoming projects including series of mini-events targeting specific audiences: college students, young professionals, social media influencers; provide opportunity for career coaching and networking with experienced business owners. Director Nash offered to reach out to airbnb to present at one of the events. Ms Noll commented on Chamber hosting various SBA and SCORE events focused on younger crowd that need career guidance, mentors to give advice and provide assistance with resume.

Chairman Crowley distributed a chart of Milford economic development infrastructure and EDC role to serve along with Milford Chamber as liaisons, communicating with businesses, business groups and set priorities for other interested parties: Milford Progress Inc (MPI), DMBA, Milford Alive, Walnut Beach, Devon and tourism-related organizations; also involves CT Post Mall, Board of Education, Milford Hospital and Subway.

Director Nash provided background of MPI as authorized in the 70's to be developmental arm of the City; MPI never functioned that way but ran under the Chamber and were involved in other projects – downtown design, lamplights, etc. She discussed changes in MPI with Mr. Franke serving as EDC representative. EDC will help set funding priorities based on input from Mr. Franke and this Committee.

X. OLD BUSINESS – None

XI. NEW BUSINESS – None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder