

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES of the Meeting of September 30, 2020

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

Commissioners Present: Michael Crowley, Chairman; Ani Chaghatzbanian, Vice Chair; Jessica Stram; Albert Franke; Peter Cozzolino

Advisors present: Julie Nash; Paige Miglio; Pamela Staneski

Also present: Cassandra Schull

Absent: Michael Lynch; John DePalma

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL  
Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 2020 MEETING  
Mr. Franke and Mr. Cozzolino made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 2020. Unanimously approved.
- III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – None
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
- V. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION  
Chairman Crowley reviewed the business survey and talked about projects for rest of the year and plans for 2021. Mr. Cozzolino asked about small green areas around the City; who oversees those spaces and if there is an existing program for local businesses to make them look better. Discussion ensued on prior MPI involvement and plans to restructure the program.
- VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY  
Director Nash reported on 45 new business starts. She commented on people having time to open side businesses and said there has been an increase in construction activity related to people being home more. Hawkwood Games is moving into the Café Atlantique location. She has upcoming meeting to discuss options for winter dining. She reviewed several Business Resource links on Milford DECD website for CARES Act small business grants; they are open grants that can be used for rental assistance, marketing, website, PPE, hand washing stations, etc. Applications will be reviewed and voted on by EDC. She also talked about CTPTAC/Milford Chamber webinar to help manufacturers build on government contracts as revenue sources.
- VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. TOURISM  
Ms Miglio reported on farmers' market season, concerts at CT Post Mall and plans to use Parsons auditorium for winter events. She talked about hosting a 4-day Halloween event at Eisenhower Park, 6-9pm; they will give out goody bags provided by donations from PEZ and Montano. There will be a music festival on October 10th to benefit the MAC; she has plans to grow it into a small series for next year. They had a mini festival at Milford Historical Society with tours of historical homes and

they are still holding pop up art experiences on Saturdays. She also suggested a follow up meeting with businesses to learn how they were affected by the shutdown, what they learned, what changed.

**B. CHAMBER**

Ms Staneski reported on 40 new Chamber members this year and have 5 ribbon cuttings in October/November. They have received positive feedback from restaurants. The Best of Milford contest winners will be unveiled on their Facebook page tonight at 6pm They are also planning pop up coffee meetings at different businesses, holding outdoor Business After Hours, and co-hosting an election forum with candidates October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**C. PERMIT & LAND USE – None**

**D. VISITATION REPORTS**

Director Nash announced the Gilded Lily shop celebrated 10 years downtown.

**E. MILFORD ADVISORY GROUP**

Mr. Franke said the real estate subgroup has not needed to meet; their industry never shut down and have been busy; he commented on disbanding the subgroup. Director Nash expressed her thanks to Mr. Franke for his work as Reopen Milford advisor.

She said conversations with industries have been more one-on-one lately and the Reopen group will meet after Phase 3 plans are announced. She is keeping in touch with restaurants and will be discussing winter dining. She commented on specific needs in manufacturing sector that led to October 21<sup>st</sup> webinar with CTPTAC.

Mr. Cozzolino talked about having supply issues in his industry and found a local manufacturer to fabricate a custom part. Ms Nash stated she is working with John Schuld on getting a manufacturers group together. He asked about a list of local manufacturers to get a sense of what they do and offered to help with the group.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms Chaghatzbanian asked about the CT Post Mall proposal. Director Nash said it is on P&Z agenda for October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Next meeting will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond  
Recorder