

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of November 18, 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; Michael Lynch; Jessica Stram; Peter Cozzolino

Advisors present: Julie Nash; Paige Miglio

Also present: Cassandra Schull

Absent: Ani Chaghatzbanian; John DePalma; Albert Franke; Pamela Staneski

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

II. VOTING ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2020 MEETING

Mr. Lynch and Mr. Crowley made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2020. Unanimously approved.

B. 2021 EDC REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Lynch and Mr. Cozzolino made and seconded a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Mr. Crowley received 13 responses to "Keep the Cheer Here" shop local campaign. This Commission will follow up with each business, identify what they have in stock for the holiday season, and how they are handling safety and CoVID measures; he asked for help reaching out to other businesses who would be interested in participating. Mr. Lynch offered to assist.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION – None

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reported on unemployment numbers, new business data and said she still has businesses interested in moving into Milford. A link was added to her website for CARES Act grant for small businesses and she is working on Keep the Cheer Here campaign to encourage people to shop local. She commented on challenges with organizing holiday pop up shops at the Chamber; she talked about the recent curfew for restaurants and writing a letter of support to the Governor to extend closing hours.

Mr. Lynch asked about how other committees are planning future events. Director Nash stated there will be a supply and demand issue with vaccines, so everyone is waiting and trying to think of ways to plan events in different ways. Ms Miglio commented on the need for all businesses to follow the same guidelines and work together to present events.

Director Nash spoke about issues businesses are having with getting employees tested and staffing issues while waiting to get the results.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. TOURISM

Ms Miglio reported on the success of the MAC music festival that ended with the Happy Haunts Hollow event at Eisenhower Park; she estimated approximately 1,200 cars/5,000 people attended. They plan to partner with Milford Prevention Council to hold the event again next year. She also talked about ideas for building a semi-permanent stage at Eisenhower to hold more outdoor shows next spring/summer.

B. CHAMBER

Ms Miglio talked about partnering with DMBA on the Keep the Cheer Here campaign; she said there are businesses in Walnut Beach and Devon that want to participate but are not Chamber members. She also reported on their move to CT Post Mall; their Shopping with Santa event and spoke about the new Chamber directory.

Discussion on pumpkins on the green and MPC Frosty Fest. Director Nash said they plan to live stream the tree lighting and encourage people to stay home, order take out and watch as a family.

C. MILFORD ADVISORY GROUP – None

D. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

E. VISITATION REPORTS – None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There will be no meeting in December

The next regular meeting will be held on January 27, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder