

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of January 25, 2017

Present

Commissioners:

Greg Harla, Chairman; Michael Lynch, Vice Chairman; Michael Crowley; Victor Ferrante; Jennifer Clinton; Julie Nash

Absent

John DePalma; George Hunihan; Gary Mullin; Dan Kiley

I. Call to Order/Election of Officers 2017

Mr. Harla called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Mr. Harla made a motion to nominate Mr. Lynch as Chairman. Director Nash asked for a nomination for Vice Chairman. Mr. Ferrante made a motion to elect Mr. Lynch as Chairman and Mr. Harla as Vice Chairman. Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting

Mr. Ferrante and Mr. Harla made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2016. Unanimously approved.

III. Chairman's Report/Introductory Comments

Chairman Lynch welcomed new member, Jennifer Clinton, to the EDC and commented on the expertise of commissioners and what they have to offer.

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Correspondence – None

VI. Economic Development Activity

Director Nash reported on economic growth in Milford, noting statistics from CT Data Collaborative (ctdata.org) including a 42% increase in new businesses registered in Milford between 2010 and 2015 compared to surrounding towns. She also reported on several restaurants opening soon and commented on Subway's plan to expand and add 150 new jobs in Milford. She reminded the Commission, the first Economic Development Roundtable meeting for 2017 will be held February 1st at Lisman Landing.

VII. Standing Items/Committee Reports

A. Downtown Parking

Director Nash reported on the progress of the TOD planning grant and commented on a variety of projects and activities taking place downtown. A discussion ensued to rename this agenda item, "Downtown Update."

B. Chamber – None

C. Permit & Land Use

Mr. Ferrante will invite Mr. Griffith to the next EDC meeting in February.

D. Visitation Reports

Mr. Crowley reported on a recent meeting with Mason Trumble of REI. Mr. Crowley discussed a variety of programs and classes offered by REI and expressed his interest in helping Mr. Trumble coordinate outdoor activities around Milford this spring. The permitting process to use city property was discussed. Director Nash expressed her support for the REI programs and informed Mr. Crowley which city departments to contact for permits.

E. Tourism

Director Nash commented on the goals for CT Department of Tourism; that, in light of the recent state budget cuts, they are looking to regional chambers to help promote tourism.

VIII. Milford Marketing Plan RFP Status Update

The Committee discussed the progress of the marketing plan and RFP. Director Nash stated they are shifting focus to short "Minute with the Mayor" videos and social media advertising. She reported the Chamber event calendar is up and running and she is refining the Milford Infograph/Snapshot – a one-pager summarizing growth in Milford. Director Nash suggested updating this agenda item to "Milford Marketing" to encompass all marketing efforts.

IX. EDC Project Discussion: 2017 Committee Goals

Chairman Lynch outlined three goals for the EDC in 2017: adding other city boards and commissions to EDC agenda; keeping "New Business Meet and Greet" on the agenda; and expressed interest in an annual event hosted by EDC.

Vice Chairman Harla commented on the uniqueness of the marina as one of the only city-owned transient marinas. A discussion ensued on EDC's role in helping Ray Swift promote the harbor. Members agreed to add Milford Harbor as well as Sewer Commission to 2017 agenda. Chairman Lynch offered to invite Liberty Rock Tavern for a meet and greet. Further discussion on the annual event will take place at the next EDC meeting.

X. Old Business – None

XI. New Business – None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder