

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of February 22, 2017

Present

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

Absent

John DePalma; George Hunihan; Gary Mullin; Dan Kiley

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting

Mr. Harla and Mr. Crowley made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2017. Unanimously approved.

III. Chairman's Report/Introductory Comments

Chairman Lynch reported on his attendance at the 2nd Economic Development Roundtable meeting. He commented on a presentation by Uber representative, David Fong. A discussion ensued on the increased usage of Uber and Uber Eats in Milford.

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Correspondence – None

VI. New Business "Meet and Greet": Liberty Rock Tavern

Chairman Lynch welcomed Dan Rizzo & Chris Hey of Liberty Rock Tavern. Dan and Chris spoke about renovations and upgrades to the interior including an indoor shuffle board and are seeking approval for a cafe license. They described their award-winning pub grub menu as upscale bar food, spoke about their efforts to shop for local ingredients and discussed the popularity of their premade meal service. They also reported on having a full event calendar including weekly events, themed parties and fundraisers for various local charities.

VII. Economic Development Activity

Director Nash commented on several upcoming events: DMBA is meeting at Bridge House at 5:00 to help organize a group for Devon businesses; Milford Bank is hosting a series of business marketing seminars in March and April; March 25th is the Women's Business Development workshop at Milford library. She also announced the DECD conference will be held in March and May 2nd will be the next Economic Development Roundtable discussion where Airbnb is scheduled to present. A discussion ensued on the increased usage of Airbnb and Uber services in Milford and how EDC can assist in building relationships with these types of businesses.

VIII. Standing Items/Committee Reports

A. Downtown Parking

Director Nash expects the market analysis for the TOD Planning Grant to be submitted at the end of March. The next step would include more public outreach to discuss recommendations with residents and get input for the conceptual site plan.

B. Chamber – None

C. Permit & Land Use

Mr. Ferrante stated he will not be in attendance at the March EDC meeting.

D. Visitation Reports – None

E. Tourism

Director Nash explained how state budget cuts have affected regional tourism; that they are looking to local chambers to assist with promoting tourism.

F. Milford Harbor

Vice Chairman Harla reported on a meeting scheduled for next week with Ray Swift to discuss how EDC can help promote Milford harbor.

IX. Milford Marketing

Director Nash reported on plans to highlight three Milford businesses in a marketing video and she is currently working with a local firm to develop a unifying message for Milford.

X. EDC Project Discussion

The committee discussed various project ideas including breakfast with businesses, an EDC booth at the Oyster Festival and an evening event at Milford harbor.

XI. Old Business – None

XII. New Business

A. Sewer Commission – None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder