

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES of the Meeting of April 27, 2016

Present: Commissioners: Greg Harla, Chairman; Michael Lynch, Vice Chairman;  
John O'Neil; John DePalma; Victor Ferrante; Julie Nash, Advisor

Absent: George Hunihan

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Harla called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - Mr. DePalma and Mr. O'Neil made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2016. Unanimously approved.
- III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS - Chairman Harla expressed his gratitude to Mr. O'Neil for his contributions and outstanding service as EDC Chair and is looking forward to Mr. O'Neil's input as he continues to serve on the Committee. Chairman Harla also spoke about his goals for the EDC, including collaborating more with other City agencies working on similar projects.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None
- V. CORRESPONDENCE - None
- VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY - Director Nash announced their recent attendance at the State Capitol for Milford Day, commenting in its success, and spoke about feedback she received from legislators. She also reported on the status of the RFQ for the Downtown Development project; that 11 responses were received and the committee, DRHSDC, will review them at their next meeting. She also reported on new businesses in Milford and explained her efforts to better track them by subscribing to a monthly list from the Secretary of State of CT; she is also looking into receiving a report from CT Department of Labor and hopes to start the "Meet and Greets" next month.

Director Nash discussed the Bikeable/Walkable initiatives underway to connect the mall and downtown Milford, adding that they received approval for a DOT Road Safety Audit. She also applied for "Complete Streets Toolbox" to establish a guide for making downtown Milford more accessible (<http://tstc.org/reports/ctcsbx>).

Mr. Ferrante asked about the road safety audit, commenting on pedestrian accessibility routes left out after the last major makeover at the mall and a discussion ensued. The Committee also discussed a recent car show in New Canaan and how a similar event can be planned in Milford. Director Nash suggested reaching out to Ron Kurfehs who has experience with organizing car events and has also been involved in City of Milford branding/marketing.

## VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. DOWNTOWN PARKING - Mr. O'Neil reported on the new parking lot near the train station; that they are working on drainage and paving the surface lot.
- B. CHAMBER - None
- C. PERMIT & LAND USE - Mr. Ferrante asked to keep Mr. Griffith of DPLU informed about the DOT Road Safety Audit. Director Nash informed the committee that key stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide their input before the audit.
- D. VISITATION REPORT - Mr. DePalma commented on the addition at Pop's Family Restaurant and spoke about receiving a request for large warehouse space in Milford.
- E. TOURISM - Director Nash announced the attendance of Representatives Rose and Staneski at the next EDC meeting to discuss their role at the State Capital to boost CT tourism. She suggested inviting other tourism-type agencies in Milford to join the meeting and expressed her interest in scheduling future small round table discussions.

VIII. MILFORD MARKETING PLAN RFP STATUS UPDATE - Director Nash commented on the RFP status; SHU is moving the project to their graduate program and she is waiting to hear back on the start-date.

IX. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION - The committee discussed modifying the brokers showcase, bringing it back as a business forum.

X. OLD BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS - None

Mr. Ferrante and Mr. O'Neil made and seconded a motion to finalize the meeting. Motion was unanimously carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond  
Recorder