

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of July 26, 2017

Present

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

Advisors: Julie Nash; Gary Mullin

Also present: James Maroney; Julie Avellino

Absent

John DePalma

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting

Vice Chairman Harla and Mr. Crowley made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017. Unanimously approved.

III. Chairman's Report/Introductory Comments

Chairman Lynch welcomed James Maroney and Julie Avellino to the meeting.

IV. Public Comments

Ms. Avellino is a realtor and resident in Milford. She commented on Milford's strong city-wide growth potential to attract families and retirees and discussed her interest in serving on the EDC.

V. Correspondence – None

VI. New Business "Meet and Greet"

Mr. Maroney, founder of First Choice College, discussed his courses – designed to prepare students for college – and services he offers to help with college planning. He spoke about the success of his courses and mentioned his plans to teach SAT prep in China. Mr. Maroney is also a grant recipient of Milford's Micro-Enterprise Assistance Program, which he will use to automate their course registration process and improve marketing.

VII. Economic Development Activity

Director Nash reported on 32 new business starts and commented on Milford named in top 30 U.S. cities for most educated residents. She discussed issues in the Walnut Beach area including their facade program and a proposal to modify zoning regulations. She also announced the next quarterly economic development roundtable is scheduled for September 6th, the Village of Devon Business Association is meeting this Friday at 8:30am and the EDC is beginning collaborations with Milford Progress Inc. She also announced CERC involvement in a short term strategic plan for Milford.

VIII. Standing Items/Committee Reports

A. Downtown Update

Director Nash reported on initial concept plans presented at public workshops for the River/High Streets property. A discussion ensued on the presentation and resident input.

B. Chamber

Mr. Mullin reported on their nonprofit council - intended to help them share practices, identify overlapping services and work together on similar programs. He mentioned they are looking at ways to add social service agencies that are not Chamber members. Mr. Mullin commented on state tourism budget cut from \$16 million to \$6 million and the effect on Milford tourism. He announced Milford Economic Summit will be held on September 14th featuring the Director of Technology at Blum Shapiro, who will present on the future of robotics and artificial intelligence. He also expressed his support for the video released at the State of the City Address.

C. Permit & Land Use – None

D. Visitation Reports – None

E. Tourism – None

F. Milford Harbor

Vice Chairman Harla commented on promotional materials currently distributed at Milford Harbor and a discussion ensued on how to build on those marketing efforts including "Welcome to Milford" tote bags that contain a calendar of city events and itineraries with maps and directions. Director Nash suggested meeting with the harbor committee to organize a Mayor's Cup Regatta. She also mentioned the grant submitted to fund harbor upgrades was approved while funding for removal of the Gulf Street bridge was not approved.

IX. Milford Marketing – None

X. EDC Project Discussion – None

XI. Old Business – None

XII. New Business – None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder