

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

Present

Commissioners:

Michael Lynch, Chairman; Greg Harla, Vice Chairman; Michael Crowley; Jennifer Clinton; John DePalma

Advisors: Julie Nash; Gary Mullin; Paige Miglio

Also present: Heide Lang

Absent

Victor Ferrante; Carlo Piselli

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2017 MEETING

Vice Chairman Harla and Ms. Clinton made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of August 30, 2017. Unanimously approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Lynch and Director Nash expressed their plans to write a letter to Board of Aldermen in support of Susan Patrick and business owners in the Walnut Beach area.

VI. NEW BUSINESS “MEET AND GREET”

Chairman Lynch introduced Ken Sterba, general manager of Connecticut Post Mall. Mr. Sterba discussed his extensive background in mall management. He commented on the exposure to Route 1 and the need to better advertise for tenants and promote events at the Mall. He expressed his plans to connect with Planning and Zoning to explore a better way to upgrade the signage at entrance. A discussion ensued on new and current tenants at the Mall and the evolution of retail industry.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash presented her monthly activity report on economic development in the City, including construction permitting data and new business starts. She presented an update on the MEAP program and asked this Committee to share info on the grant; the next MEAP grant recipient, Scratch Bakery, was invited to attend next month's meeting. She also commented on the booth at Grand Central Station advertising Milford including getaway package of hotels, restaurants and Pantachino show.

VIII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN UPDATE

Director Nash commented on the draft report recently presented by BL companies. The final report should be ready in a few weeks; next step will be to put out the RFQ.

B. CHAMBER

Ms. Moll announced the Milford High School All-Class reunion will take place on the afternoon of June 30<sup>th</sup>. She expressed her interest in co-marketing for Kick Off to Summer Fireworks.

C. PERMIT & LAND USE – None

D. VISITATION REPORTS

Director Nash and Ms. Moll spoke about their recent visit to various Milford businesses; they expressed their interest to continue the visits on Tuesday mornings and invited members of this Committee to join them. Director Nash also asked for suggestions for “Minute with the Mayor” videos.

E. TOURISM

Ms. Miglio discussed her plans for a Familiarization (Fam) Tour on December 8<sup>th</sup>: inviting tourism writers and bloggers on a daycation to experience what a day in Milford would be like, including a walking tour of Downtown and tour of Walnut beach by scooter. Festivals will be highlighted and she is also in the process of working with Sarah Washburn on creating packages for getaways in Milford for dining, entertainment, hotel stays, shopping downtown and at CT Post Mall.

F. MILFORD HARBOR

Mr. Harla and Ms. Clinton will provide an update at the next meeting.

IX. MILFORD MARKETING – None

X. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION

A. PROJECT LIST – None

B. WALNUT BEACH FAÇADE PROGRAM

Heide Lang, owner of The Fig Cooking School, described her business as a food and art center located in Walnut Beach. She will offer cooking classes, take out lunch/dinner boxes, team building workshops, presentations by special guests and authors. She presented her budget for Walnut Beach Façade Program: \$14,275 including pending invoice for shutters. Construction is expected to be completed by the end November and classes to begin in January. Chairman Lynch and Vice Chairman Harla made and seconded a motion to approve the budget presented by Ms. Lang for the program. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. OLD BUSINESS – None

XII. NEW BUSINESS – None

XIII. NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETINGS – 3<sup>rd</sup> **WEDNESDAY**

NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> – CONFERENCE ROOM A

DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> – CONFERENCE ROOM B

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond  
Recorder