

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES of the Meeting of November 16, 2016

Present

Commissioners: Greg Harla, Chairman; Michael Lynch, Vice Chairman; George Hunihan; Victor Ferrante; Mike Crowley; Julie Nash, Advisor

Absent

Dan Kiley; Gary Mullin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Harla called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2016 MEETING

Vice Chairman Lynch and Mr. Ferrante made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2016. Unanimously approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee discussed the remaining schedule for 2016 and the proposed EDC meeting schedule for 2017.

Mr. DePalma and Mr. Hunihan made and seconded a motion to change the meeting time to 8:00am effective January 25, 2017. Unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Lynch and Mr. DePalma made and seconded a motion to cancel the next meeting scheduled for December 21st. Unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chairman Harla mentioned an upcoming meeting with the Mayor to discuss potential candidates for a vacant slot on the EDC and expects the position to be filled early next year. He also reminded the committee the elections for Chairman and Vice Chairman will take place in January. A discussion ensued on TOD grant project, EDC's involvement in quarterly roundtable discussions and collaborations with joint committees.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS "MEET AND GREET" - None

VII. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VIII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Director Nash reminded the committee the CT Office of Tourism is hosting a "Listening Tour" at City Hall November 17th at 2:00 pm. She explained the purpose of this event is to talk to towns and elected officials to discuss how to move forward with tourism in Connecticut in light of recent state budget cuts. Director Nash commented on the success of the 2nd Economic Development Roundtable meeting - an opportunity for various City organizations to come together, open the dialogue and get on the same page to support each other. She

announced the next quarterly Roundtable is scheduled for February 1st; Airbnb and Uber are expected to attend to discuss their partnerships with municipalities. She also reported on the downtown development "Kick-Off" meeting with the consultation team of BL Companies on November 2nd followed by a site tour; she added this is the first phase of the TOD grant project, which should be completed by the end of next summer. Chairman Harla noted "The Corner" breakfast cafe and "Scratch Bakery" as two examples of revitalization and tourism downtown. A discussion ensued on marketing growing businesses in Milford.

IX. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN PARKING

Director Nash expects parking downtown to increase to 180-300 spaces. She also commented on alternate transit options including safe biking and walking paths.

B. CHAMBER – None

C. PERMIT & LAND USE – Mr. Ferrante noted Mr. Griffith was scheduled to attend December's meeting; he will reschedule for January.

D. VISITATION REPORT – Mr. DePalma commented on direct contact and the importance of visiting businesses in person. He also volunteered to reach out to the media to cover Milford activities.

E. TOURISM – None

X. MILFORD MARKETING PLAN RFP STATUS UPDATE – None

XI. EDC PROJECT DISCUSSION – None

XII. OLD BUSINESS – None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Director Nash commented on the importance of focusing on marketing Milford harbor. A discussion ensued on the harbor, promoting the marina, connecting with boaters and engaging in conversation with Ray Swift and Bruce Kurlya. Director Nash suggested adding Milford harbor to EDC's 2017 agenda; Mr. DePalma volunteered to discuss with Ray and Bruce. Director Nash also suggested contacting Nancy at Milford Boat Works and the Golf Commission. Vice Chairman Lynch commented on partnering with REI to offer classes and outdoor activities. Mr. Crowley volunteered to reach out to the store manager at REI.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m. A motion was unanimously carried to finalize the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Diamond
Recorder