

MINUTES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MADDEN ROOM
2019
SOUTH WINDSOR TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23,
TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Susan Burnham, Joseph Kennedy, James Murray, Linda Jeski, Louise Neary, Vice Chairperson Paul Burnham, Alternate Victor Dorobantu (sat for Commissioner Futtner), Scott Kelley, and William Jodice

ABSENT: Chairperson David Marsh, Edwina Futtner, Alternates Shailesh Verma, Wayne Kilburn and Shawn Jacobaccio

ALSO PRESENT: Jill McAllister, Chamber of Commerce, Town Council liaison and Mayor Andrew Paterna

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Vice Chairperson P. Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- 2. Roll Call:** The above-mentioned members were introduced.
- 3. Public Participation:** Jill McAllister introduced herself as a representative from the Chamber of Commerce and is here taking notes from the meeting. She will add this information to the Chamber newsletter with a link to the minutes. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham mentioned that the Commission is currently unaware of ribbon cutting events. Ms. McAllister will forward information about ribbon cuttings to Donna Thompson so she can forward them on to the EDC. Ms. McAllister offered to also send along all of the emails that are sent out by the Chamber. Commissioner S. Burnham suggested that all of the emails that are sent, be forwarded to the Commission to learn about all of the work they are doing. Commissioner Dorobantu feels that the volume of emails may be too much and suggests that a weekly email and any ribbon cutting information be sent to Donna so that they can be forwarded to the Commission. Commissioner Kelly asked how the restaurant crawl went and Ms. McAllister thought the event was fun and it was well attended. She doesn't have information about how well the restaurants did or whether there were people from out of town. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham suggests that a report could be given each month as a way to keep the Commission updated.
- 4. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from Regular Meeting on 9/25/2019:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeski and **seconded** by Commissioner S. Burnham to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 25, 2019 with the following corrections:

p. 2 6b should read: "Town Manager Maniscalco is hoping for ~~something~~ more concrete information to share with the commission."

p. 3 9. "Kelly" should be corrected to "Kelley"

Motion was approved unanimously. Motion passed.

5. Old Business

- (a) Economic Development Strategy: Mayor Andrew Paterna reported that Town Manager Maniscalco is looking at smaller restaurants and retail instead of larger distribution centers.
- (b) Economic Development Commission Brand, Identity, Administration: None
- (c) Sustainable CT: None
- (d) Town Ordinance Economic Impact Analysis: None

6. Committee Report(s)

(a) Business Community Engagement (Ambassador Program) / Committee: Vice Chairperson P. Burnham provided the following updates:

- Design Professionals has put in a mixed use application for a Sullivan Avenue project. P&Z will be meeting on November 12th and he hopes to provide an update next month.
- A storage facility is interested in the former DCK property.
- A technology center is looking for approval for a project. Eversource is currently using the old drive-in to store their equipment but is now looking for a new location.
- Eli Terry Elementary School is looking to add more rooms.
- Work has begun on the Buckland Road project. Road work has started and buildings should be going up in the spring of 2020.
- A solar farm plans to be up and running by January 1, 2020 and was approved by P&Z. It will be located on Rye Street at the back of an existing building.

Commissioner S. Burnham asked if Michelle Lipe will be attending meetings in the future. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham stated that Ms. Lipe has been dealing with an issue of some conditions for abatements not being followed through on. She would like the EDC to consider helping with compliance. Mayor Paterna commented that the abatements with the compliance issues were done with a previous owner and were then carried over to the new owner. Commissioner Jeski stated that the Commission has been discussing this issue and that there needs to be a more cohesive process. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham stated that there hasn't been follow-up on the ideas that were submitted for the tax abatement program that had been previously submitted. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham will ask for this to be added to next month's agenda. Commissioner Kelley believes the roof shields were a result of Evergreen Walk. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham will request that Ms. Lipe be invited to a meeting to discuss the abatement issue and determine if EDC can offer assistance. Commissioner Kennedy suggests having another brainstorming session at the start of the new year. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham suggests inviting Town Manager Maniscalco to the January 2020 meeting to give an update. Commissioner Neary asked if an abatement has ever been given for retail and Vice Chairperson mentioned that there have. One recent recipient was Geissler's and a few years ago a package store got a tax abatement. Mayor Paterna stated that the town is also looking at including farming for tax abatement.

Vice Chairperson P. Burnham shared that a coffee seller that has a cart in the LOB is interested in space in South Windsor. He also has a partner looking for space for selling antiques. The Crandall & Daughter building is a possible location. They are looking to rent, maybe buy, depending on the price.

7. New Business: None

8. Communications and Remarks

(a) Report from David Marsh, Chairperson: Vice Chairperson P. Burnham welcomed Scott Kelley as a regular member of the Commission.

9. General Discussion: Commissioner Kennedy asked about the United Bank merger and if they have voted to stay in South Windsor. Vice Chairperson P. Burnham stated that People's is going to be closing their regional office.

10. Executive Session: None

11. Adjournment:

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Jeski, and **seconded** by Commissioner S. Burnham to adjourn at 7:42pm and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

Next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the **Sprenkel** Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Potter
Clerk