

Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

5:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM #201 AND VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Marlene Geary, Walt Jedziniak, David May and Ted Turner

Absent: Sean Flynn

Call to Order: Chairman Geary called the meeting to order at 5:32 P.M. in the Town Hall 2nd floor meeting room #102 and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Jedziniak, to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Mr. Jedziniak, seconded by Mr. May, to approve of the July 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Public Comment: None

Town Manager's Report:

- a. **New Business Update:** The members reviewed the list of new businesses and changed businesses from the last Planning and Zoning meeting.
- b. **New Businesses with Planning & Zoning Approval/ Review of P&Z Minutes:** The members reviewed and briefly discussed the minutes and motions of the Planning and Zoning Commission. A notification was sent out for the current round of Middlesex Revitalization grants. Bevin House was awarded \$5,000 from a revitalization grant. The town is moving ahead with the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency to get certified people to perform the work needed on the properties. A portion of the building on the 3 Watrous property needs to be demoed since it is starting to collapse. There hasn't been a new hire for the Zoning official position.

Continuing Business:

- a. **New Business of the Month Process and September Nomination:** The members discussed what would help to better execute the monthly process for nominating businesses in town. It was suggested to invite the business owner in advance to the monthly meetings to get their awards. This would also help to get a picture taken with the members for the article that is usually submitted to the Rivereast. Furthermore, the invite to the business owner would get some people to attend the meetings as public. The members will drop off the signs to the businesses and pick them up to bring to the next nominated business. It was decided to award the businesses a month ahead to get all of the timing correctly. The members suggested to start with nominations for November so the business owners can get

their awards at the October meeting. The invitation to the owners will also have an RSVP letter that can be sent to the Town Manager's office at the Town Hall. The members also discussed getting the past month's business owners to attend the October meeting to have a picture taken with the members after being awarded. It was decided that Sarah and Associates will be Business of the Month for November and the Pinshack as New Business for November. The members want to put Rule of 3 Brewery as new business on the list as well. Mr. Flynn will send out the invitation letters and will add the RSVP letters for the business owners.

- b. Business Spotlight Process and September Nomination:** Discussed in item A.
- c. Around the Room: Ongoing EDC Projects:** No discussion of this topic.
- d. EDC Website:** No update for this item.

New Business:

- a. Discussion of Member Recruitment:** Chairwoman Geary stated that she is moving into a bigger role starting October 1st. She mentioned that her time will shrink with the new role. The commission needs more members to join. There is some recruiting from the town on the town website and through ads in the Rivereast. It was stated that East Hampton needs a Business Association. The members suggested to reach out to the businesses in town that are residents to see if they would join the commission. Or perhaps a representative from the Village Center to join the commission. The members will develop a list of contact info for the Village Center businesses to start reaching out. The Town Manager will look for the list of businesses and send to the members. Chairwoman Geary suggested drafting a letter to invite local businesses to join the commission and send it to the Town Manager and Cathy to send out.

Correspondence: Mr. Jedziniak received a letter from Chris Burt, of Burt Realty, looking for the commission members to advocate for extending the granite curbing on West High Street to cover in front of his office location. He was hoping the members would advocate on his behalf to the Town Manager and the town. His business location is on Route 66, West High Street, which is a State owned road. Permission to extend the curbing may need to come from the State rather than the town. The State maintains the curbing and everything between the curbs. Mr. Burt would need to contact the State for permission to extend the granite curbing to cover in front of his office location. It was suggested that Mr. Jedziniak reply to Mr. Burt to inform him that the members discussed the topic and to remind him that it's a State road, so permission for the curbing would need to come from them.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Jedziniak, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk