

**Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
6:30 PM
East Hampton Town Hall**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Jack Solomon, Tim Csere, Kate Adams, Erin Hall, and Michael Maniscalco (Town Manager)

Absent: Matthew Joseff and Ted Turner

Call to order: Chairman Solomon called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- a) *A motion was made by Mr. Csere and seconded by Ms. Hall to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 19, 2017. Voted 4-0*

Public Comments: None

Old Business

New Business Update: Black Walnut Artisan Bread Company will soon be opening at 205 E. High St. A brewery/tap room called Nirvana will open at 13 N. Main, along with a possible breakfast restaurant, a bakery will be opening that will operate out of the Congregational Church, and DMR Automotive opened on Rt. 66 next to Sports on 66.

Discussion occurred on how the EDC can be made aware when new businesses open in town so that they can reach out. Prior to each meeting, any permits that P&Z granted in relation to new businesses and any trade name certificates filed with the Town Clerk's office will be gathered by town staff and given to the EDC.

Belltown Spotlight on Business: Loco Perro will be featured in the article in the upcoming EH Events magazine. Members present did not attend a photo opportunity for ECO coffee shop and were not aware if it happened or not with the absent members. Mr. Csere will reach out to Sports on 66 as the next scheduled business.

Swept Away Cleaning Services, Cheers and The Studio were nominated as future recipients. CMK Sports will be the April business and Old Bank Flowers & Greenery will be for May.

At this time Mr. Csere gave an update on the Water Task Force. The Tighe & Bond report concluded that there is no viable water supply to do even a limited interconnection in the Village Center. The Task Force will report to the Council that they do not recommend interconnection at this time, and that viable alternatives are the Cobalt line and the MDC in Portland.

Commission Members' Business Outreach Reports: Outreach was discussed during the New Business Update. There was discussion on a better map for business territories or dividing businesses alphabetically.

Spring Business Showcase Event: The event will be held April 28 from 10 – 2 and billed as the “Spring Business and Family Fest.” The Congregational Church is now booked, though there was discussion on holding the event in and around Center School so that there would be more room. Lori Caldwell at Old Bank Flowers & Greenery is willing to help and will attend this board’s next meeting. Ideas were discussed such as having food trucks present, a touch-a-truck event, bounce house, involvement of Park & Rec and/or the EH Soccer Club. The Town Manager’s office will be able to print flyers for the event.

New Business

2018 – Action Plan: Ms. Hall distributed a draft of a plan for action items for the upcoming year. A possible coupon book was discussed, along with the possibility of a flyer, a book, a list, or a map of restaurants in the area that people from out of town can use, particularly at Sports on 66. A company called Mail a Map that creates town maps was identified and will be reached out to.

2018 – Budgeting: Budget for the upcoming fiscal year was discussed. Ms. Adams will create a budget for the fall event and Ms. Hall will create a budget for the spring event. These will be sent to Mr. Csere who will create an overall budget for the upcoming BOF reviews.

Town Manager's Report: Mr. Maniscalco reported that the applications for Planning and Zoning and the Inlands, Wetlands and Watercourses Agency have been submitted for the new municipal complex. The soil samples have been good and the project is moving forward.

The budget process is now starting; he mentioned the financial challenge posed because of the lack of State revenue. We start about 1.2 million behind, which can be made up with the extra mill rate that was included and proceeds from the tax sale. He cautioned that this is only one-time revenue and that next year will also be a challenge because of the State cuts.

The State has halted all road work projects, including the upcoming project for Rt. 66/Pocotopaug Creek.

The application submission period for the new Police Chief closes on January 19. As of now there are 14 applicants and a hiring committee has been compiled.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: *Chairman Solomon adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m..*

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza LoPresti, Recording Clerk