

Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
6:30 PM
East Hampton Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Tim Csere, Erin Hall, Ted Turner, Robyn Letourneau, and Michael Maniscalco (Town Manager). Kate Adams listened to the meeting by phone.

Absent: Matthew Joseff

Call to order: Vice Chairman Csere called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome New Member: Robyn Letourneau

Approval of Minutes

- a) *A motion was made by Ms. Hall and seconded by Ms. Letourneau to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 16, 2018. Voted 4-0*

Public Comments: None

Old Business

New Business Update

Welcome Wagon: Ms. Hall inquired about the current status of the Welcome Wagon business, and whether the EDC could put together something similar for new residents.

The Salad Bar: Ms. Hall described a restaurant in Rocky Hill and it was agreed that something similar would be a good business to attract to East Hampton. They will be contacted.

There was discussion on a banner for new businesses. There was a banner at some point, but the location of it is not known at this time.

Town Manager Maniscalco noted that the brewery for N. Main St. pulled out due to lack of water and challenges with the builder. He has reached out to the owner to see if he can find him a different location. Also, the artisan bread company that was going to open at 205 E. High cannot do so there because of site restrictions. That building was proposed and built to be storage units, so they have exceeded their septic system with the current businesses there already. He may be looking for another spot in town.

Belltown Spotlight on Business: ECO has not yet sent a write-up to Mr. Csere. A photo needs to be taken at Sports on 66.

Ms. Hall moved to add Realtor Carl Guild to the business of the month list. Ms. Letourneau seconded. Voted 4-0.

Commission Members' Business Outreach Reports: No discussion

Spring Business Showcase Event: The event is being publicized on social media. Ms. Hall distributed fliers to be handed out by other members. She asked for help in getting businesses to participate. The FD and Belltown Auto will participate in a touch a truck.

Other: At this time Mr. Maniscalco discussed the water report and the phased plan that he and Tim Smith have proposed in relation to impact to businesses and therefore economic impact on the community. He discussed the phases in detail and answered commission member's questions. This item will stay on the agenda.

New Business

Review Budget Narrative: The budget was moved forward to the Board of Finance with no cuts or comments from them at this time. The total was \$4,827.00.

Town Manager's Report: Mr. Maniscalco reported that the Town Hall/PD project is underway. Permits/endorsements have been obtained from Inlands Wetlands and Conservation Lake Commissions. P&Z will be next week. The plans should be complete at the end of April and a bid package will be released. Ground should be broken at the end of August or early September.

The budget is currently proposed at an increase of 2.3 mills for the general government and Board of Ed. combined. Budget workshops are ongoing.

The tax sale occurred and 15 properties were auctioned off bringing in a 1.5 million dollar revenue. Because of this revenue, no supplemental tax bills were given to residents. There is still concern over further state cuts for the next year as the tax sale is a one-time source of funds.

There is a revenue loss due to out of state license plate registrations. The town is looking into purchasing a piece of equipment that the PD will utilize to help the town be more aggressive with tax collection related to residents who register their cars out of state.

Public Comments: Walt Jedziniak thanked the Commission for his Belltown Spotlight on Business award. He stated that the Welcome Wagon is a for-profit organization that charges advertisers per home visit. He does not participate with them as they do not allow advertisers to provide their own marketing materials. He suggested a packet that the EDC creates and that could be distributed to realtors to give out during home closings in town.

Adjournment: *At 7:42 p.m. Mr. Turner moved to adjourn. Ms. Hall seconded. Voted 4-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti, Recording Clerk