

**Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017
East Hampton Town Hall Meeting Room**

MINUTES

Present: Jack Solomon, Tim Csere, Kate Adams, Erin Hall

Absent: James Monahan, Ted Turner

Call to order: Chairperson Solomon called the meeting to order at 6:41 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 20, 2016 as amended. Voted 4-0.*

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:

Mr. Csere nominated Mr. Solomon for Chairperson; seconded by Ms. Hall. Voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Adams nominated Mr. Csere for Vice Chairperson; seconded by Ms. Hall. Voted unanimously in favor.

Public Comments: Suzanne Goodman, of Quiet Woods Road, stated that she has lived in town for about two and a half years; was a professional architect and is now a professional coach. She loves places to be vibrant and East Hampton seems ripe for a more vibrant time. She came to learn about what can be done and commended and thanked the Commission for service to the town. She looks forward to learning more about what is happening in town.

A discussion occurred with the Commission members and Ms. Goodman regarding vibrant businesses in town. Po's and the Lucky Goat were mentioned, as were possible plans for the Village Center and the old factory buildings, and cosmetic things that may be done from a design perspective. This led to a discussion on water access for the Village Center, and how and/or if anyone is going about courting businesses for that area.

Old Business

New Business Update

Ms. Hall asked that the registers of new businesses be brought to each month's meeting. Town staff will work on this.

It was mentioned that Sports on 66 is booming. Ms. Hall stated that Ace Hardware is doing a lot and donating a lot for the new playground at Seamster Park.

Belltown Spotlight on Business

Mr. Csere noted that we are in a holding pattern this month with Ace, as he is waiting to receive a write-up to post as a press release. He will send the photo taken to Ms. Hall for posting on the EDC Facebook page.

Discussion occurred on posting another sort of recognition of businesses on the Facebook page, which would be different than the Belltown Spotlight on Business. For example, businesses with new owners like the bowling alley could be mentioned, or the fact that sports sign-ups will be held at Abbeez. Ideas discussed were that this could be a “get to know” business highlight or a “cyber business of the month”, recognized only on social media. This discussion will be continued at the regular meeting in February.

Also touched upon was that EDC could be present for ribbon cuttings with new businesses, and they could possibly partner with Park & Rec.

March 21, 2017 Meeting: Inviting Businesses

Ms. Hall will follow up with Mr. Pugliese from the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce regarding him presenting to businesses at the March meeting. An email will be composed inviting the businesses and explaining what the meeting is intended for. This will also be used as a press release in the RiverEast. Ms. Hall will get talking points from Mr. Pugliese and compose the email, which will be distributed by Town staff.

EDC Website/Links

Deferred to the February meeting.

Business Showcase Event – Summer 2017

Discussion on holding this event as a cocktail/pool party at the Bevin House occurred. This could be a draw to get businesses to come, however it was noted that the parking situation is not a good fit for an event this size. Mr. Csere suggested using the high school, and it was discussed that it would occur on a Saturday morning for about three hours. This could be partnered with another group, like pancakes from the Rotary Club, or a blood drive, or touch-a-truck event with Fire Dept., Police Dept. and Ambulance Association involvement. Chairperson Solomon asked Ms. Hall and Ms. Adams to come up with a plan outline, and then this will be discussed at subsequent meetings.

Ms. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Csere to plan the Business Showcase event for the fall and to invite other groups to help plan it such as the Lions, the Rotarty Club, the Ambulance Association, the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. in a planning meeting devoted just to this. Voted 4-0.

Ms. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Csere, to hold the event at the high school in late August or early September, possibly the week before school starts which would be Saturday, August 26. Voted 4-0.

During the next few regular meetings this item will be on the agenda for discussion. Once the date and further details are fixed, then the other groups will be invited, possibly as a workshop after the regular meeting in April.

Other: Mr. Csere stated that the Water Task Force has put out a RFP for water: There have been three members selected to propose bids for water interconnectivity in town. Mark Barmasse of the Task Force will be talking to the Town Council about this at their next meeting. This led to a discussion on costs and funding.

New Business

Allocation of Funds From 2016/17 Budget for 4th Quarter East Hampton Events Magazine Postage

Mr. Csere made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hall, to allocate \$975 from the budget to go toward the East Hampton Events Magazine. Voted 4-0 in favor.

2017/2018 Budget Discussion

Mr. Csere moved, Ms. Adams seconded, to put forth a total budget of \$6,365, that includes the additions of the following line items: Business Expo & Business Breakfast Meetings at \$1,000 and East Hampton 250th Anniversary Support at \$500. Voted 4-0 in favor.

Other: A memo was received from Jeremy Hall, Park & Rec Director and member of the 250th Anniversary Committee. He would like a list of businesses in town and the support of the EDC. It is believed that he would like the EDC to have a booth at an anniversary celebration as yet to be determined.

Town Manager's Report: None

Public Comments

Mr. Csere asked Suzanne Goodman about the East Hampton Events Magazine. She stated that she was glad to see it and it made her feel more connected. Ms. Goodman asked how she can find out more about what is happening in town to get a big picture in terms of the economic engine. She asked if there were people involved in revitalization. A discussion of possible other meetings she could attend, like the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency and Town Council, occurred. This led to a further discussion the water situation in town.

Chairperson Solomon adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Clerk