

**Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 19, 2017
6:30 PM
East Hampton Town Hall**

MINUTES

Present: Jack Solomon, Tim Csere, Ted Turner, Matthew Joseff, and Michael Maniscalco (Town Manager)

Absent: Kate Adams and Erin Hall

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. Turner and seconded by Mr. Joseff to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 21, 2017. Voted 4-0*

Public Comments: Walt Jedziniak, Walt Jedziniak Photography, stated that the sessions with Santa at the Bevin House went well and \$400 was raised for Epoch Arts and the food bank.

Old Business

New Business Update: Josh Cohen, a new plumber in town, reached out to the EDC to see if there was anything that could be done about promoting his business. There was discussion about having a new business listing on the EDC site, and how each new business would be captured if that were to happen.

Belltown Spotlight on Business: A photo will be taken with ECO coffee shop this Saturday, 12/23/17 at 10:00. Lori Caldwell from Old Bank Flowers & Greenery approached Mr. Turner about being a spotlighted business; she was added to the list.

At this time Mr. Csere gave an update from the Water Task Force. The interconnectivity study has been received from Tighe & Bond and was forwarded to EDC members. There are a few plans outlined for interconnections in town. These were discussed and Mr. Csere and Mr. Maniscalco answered questions. Time Smith from the WPCA will be making a recommendation to the Town Council shortly.

Commission Members' Business Outreach Reports: No report

New Business

Spring Business Showcase Event: Mr. Turner reported that the Congregational Church would be happy to host the event; he believes the date to be April 28. There will be a road race that morning so there will be people around

the Center. Mr. Turner will confirm the date. A possible donation to the church was discussed.

Promotion of the event was discussed: it will be in the East Hampton Events magazine, possibly the Rivereast, and can be put on the Facebook page. There were questions on timing of the event and how much space each business will have. This item will be on the January agenda so that Ms. Hall can have more input.

2018 – Action Plan: There is a free small business event planned for February at the library being put on by the Greater Hartford SCORE. Library Director Paul was looking for help in promoting the event.

A business of the year was discussed for 2018. Criteria for this will need to be discussed at a later time.

There was discussion on a plan for sending email blasts to businesses.

Bill McMinn of Essex Printing is happy to come speak to the EDC about his experience with coupon books.

Town Manager's Report: Mr. Maniscalco reported that the tax sale has brought in about \$450,000 so far out of a possible 1.7 million. The property auction will take place at Town Hall on Feb. 20, 2018.

The draft of the TIF District plan will be moving forward through the Town Council in January. If the EDC members have feedback, Mr. Maniscalco requests an email.

The Town Hall/Police Dept. facility is now in the design phase. Test pits were dug on the site and went down about 15' without hitting ledge. Election law as it relates to the referendum vote was discussed.

Budgeting talks for 2018 will begin soon. Because of state cuts, the town is already behind about \$700,000, in addition to the debt payments that will be introduced this year. This will most likely be a tough budget year.

The search is in progress for a Police Chief, the hope is that one will be hired by April. Mr. Maniscalco hopes to announce an interim Chief by the end of this week.

Public Comments: Walt Jedziniak of Walt Jedziniak Photography stated that for 2018 he would like to see the EDC promote local residents utilizing local businesses. He had an idea for a contest in which businesses take part and perhaps offer gift certificates as a prize for the resident or residents who frequent the most businesses during the year.

This was discussed further and will be placed on the agenda for January. Also discussed was the possibility of having a running section of the East Hampton

Events magazine for a reminder from the EDC to support small, local businesses.

Adjournment: *Chairman Solomon adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m..*

Respectfully submitted,



Eliza LoPresti
Recording Clerk

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