**Town of East Hampton**

**Economic Development Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

6:30 P.M.

East Hampton Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Ted Turner, Tim Csere, Robin Letourneau, and Kate Adams, with Town Manager Mike Maniscalco.

**Absent:** Erin Hall, Walt Jedziniak, and Matthew Joseff.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes:**

1. *A motion was made by Mr. Csere and seconded by Ms. Adams to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 21, 2018 with no amendments suggested. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

**Public Comment:** Three members from the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission introduced themselves to the members of the commission. Melissa Pionzio of 61 Smith St, Phyllis Martin of 31 South Main St, and Shauna Leelay of 37 Wapowag Rd. They wanted to introduce themselves to the committee. They hope to work together and to have the Commission help to sponsor and promote the events they hold. They aim to become more prominent in the community and in the town. Their most recent event is the upcoming Open Studio event at the Goth House Museum on 2 Barton Hill Rd. The give out grants and awards to local artists and artisans. They wish to support and promote the arts within the community and town.

Mary Ann Docler of 56 William Dr. She brought an issue to the Commission members attention. An Airbnb ordinance has been drafted by the Town Council for the town. This ordinance essentially bans anyone with a second home to rent on Airbnb. During the public hearing for the Town Council for this ordinance; the public comments and discussion were mixed. The ordinance states that if you were to list your home on Airbnb there are residency requirements where the owner needs to be living in the home at the time of listing and renting. Ms. Docler urges the Commission members to inform themselves of this ordinance and to support those wanting to use Airbnb for rental listings. Mr. Maniscalco added his knowledge into the discussion. He states there were concerns of public safety and ability to tax fairly. The Town Council chair out together a sub-committee consisting of public from the community and members from the Town Council to review and finalize the ordinance for Airbnb. The ordinance will be sent to the Committee members once it is finalized so they are better informed of the issue.

Shauna Leelay wanted to announce that the Public Market Palooza is in two weeks. It includes art, food, furniture, entertainment, and more. It will be held in the parking lot of Sports on 66. She asked the commission for a list of current local businesses to get in touch with more for the next market. Ms. Leelay wanted to publicly thank Ms. Letourneau for her help.

**Old Business**

1. **Business Package Promotion & Tourism:** Each member split up the old brochure to revise and edit to make a new brochure for the town. The members are still working on their parts of the brochures.
2. **New Business Update/New Business with Planning & Zoning Approval/Review of P&Z Minutes:** The members reviewed the minutes and the list of approvals.
3. **Discussion of New Business Banner Locations:** The banner is with Carl Guild and hung up at his place of business. The next business the banner will go to is She Shed for October.
4. **Belltown Spotlight on Business:** The sign is with The Studio for September. The sign will then go to Yellow Marigold for October as nominated by Ms. Letourneau.
5. **Commission Members’ Business Outreach Reports:** The commission members discussed sponsoring a monthly networking event for the local businesses. A suggestion was made to have the events start out quarterly instead of monthly to see how many businesses show up for the event. If it becomes highly attended and popular then the event could move to monthly meetings instead of quarterly. There needs to be more discussion and planning for this topic.
6. **New Business Checklist:** This topic was crossed off the agenda.
7. **Discussion of Meeting of East Hampton Business:** This topic was crossed of the list.
8. **Encouraging Local Business to Attend EDC Meetings:** This topic was lightly discussed. The members were figuring out how and what to do to have more attendees at the meetings.
9. **Promotion “Shop Local”:** None
10. **Town Brochures:** This topic was added to a on the agenda.
11. **Town Beautification:** The members discussed having something more professional for the signs coming in and leaving the town. Probably needs more than a few planted flowers.
12. **EDC Business Scavenger Hunt:** None. Taken off the agenda.

**New Business**

1. **EDC & Arts & Culture Commission Collaborative Event for 2019:** The Arts & Culture Commission is holding an Open Studio event at the Goth House Museum on 2 Barton Hill Rd this coming Saturday. Table the rest of this topic for next meeting. It was suggested to add the Airbnb ordinance to the agenda.

**Town Manager’s Report:** The presentation of the newly established TIFF district in the village center to the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. The presentation was well received. There are 6 final applicants for the Town Clerk position. The town budget referendum was on Wednesday. On Thursday a bid will be awarded for site and construction work for the Town Hall and Police Department project. And the water project is still in progress. There will be two submissions from MDC; the first one will be a grant for $40 million for the town and the second options will be an $80 million low interest rate loan to the town which MDC will take on the debt payments so no taxpayer from East Hampton won’t have to pay off the loan.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** *At 8:03 p.m. Mr. Csere moved to adjourn. Ms. Letourneau seconded. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk.