

**Town of East Hampton  
Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017  
East Hampton Town Hall Meeting Room**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jack Solomon, Tim Csere, Kate Adams, Erin Hall, Jim Monahan, Ted Turner

**Call to order:** Chairperson Solomon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

- a) *A motion was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Monahan to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 17, 2017 as amended. Voted 5-0. Note that Ms. Hall was not present for this vote.*

**Public Comments:** None

**Old Business**

**New Business Update**

Chairman Solomon noted that he heard an unofficial communication that Sports on 66 was being charged \$40,000/month for sewer fees – as they were being charged per square foot. The Commission discussed how sewer fees are assessed, and if this is business-friendly. Mr. Turner suggested asking the policy of the WPCA. This will be on a future agenda.

**Belltown Spotlight on Business**

Rossini's and KOCO are the next Spotlight Businesses. Mr. Turner will bring the sign to Rossini's and set up a time for a photo. Ms. Hall will tell the owners of KOCO, the sign and a photo will be set up for April. Mr. Csere will tell Paul's and Sandy's about their May spotlight.

*Mr. Csere moved and Ms. Hall seconded to highlight Paul's & Sandy's Too as the May Belltown Spotlight on Business. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Chris Koziel, owner of CMK Sporting Goods, asked at this time about the process of choosing businesses and whether small businesses will be spotlighted. The Commission answered yes.

**March 21, 2017 Meeting: Inviting Businesses**

Ms. Hall will follow up with Mr. Pugliese in regards to his presentation at the March regular meeting. This will be advertised on the Facebook page, in the RiverEast and on the East Hampton Small Business Facebook page. At this meeting the Commission will attempt to collect email addresses of the businesses in town so future events can be emailed to them directly.

Mr. Turner noted that Liberty Bank is interested in coming to that meeting as well and possibly giving a presentation during the April meeting.

Mr. Csere noted that the Lion's Club is having a health fair the first weekend of April at Hope Church from 8:30 – 12:30. Ms. Hall proposed that the EDC set up a table there, splitting the shift. Mr. Csere will talk to the Lion's Club. Also discussed was having a presence at the Strawberry Fest in June, possibly partnering with Park & Rec.

### **Posting of General Interest Business Items on EDC Facebook Page**

Ms. Adams noted that a few general business items had been posted, liked and shared. She noted that she would be posting a notice that Abbeez has a new owner soon, with a photo, and another post will be happening about Crossfit. It was noted that the businesses in town just need to ask to have their general interest item posted, by messaging the admins of the Facebook page.

### **Business Showcase Event – Summer 2017**

Ms. Adams stated that she contacted the Bevin House Bed & Breakfast to host this event. Chairman Solomon asked about parking, and she stated that will be figured out. Ms. Hall noted that maybe the business community will share ideas if this is posted to Facebook. A planning committee was suggested to include Ms. Hall, Ms. Adams and interested public. Mr. Csere noted that he would still like to see it occur at the high school. A possible sign outside Stop & Shop was discussed.

### **EDC Website Links**

Mr. Monahan stated that although the East Hampton website is fine, it is probably due for an upgrade, especially compared to other towns'. He stated that the town is more interesting and complex than the website would lead you to believe and would like to see the living experiences of people in town included. He suggested job openings should be on the main site, or a link to personnel with a list. He suggested interfacing and sharing of information between all boards and commissions. He believes these changes will attract new businesses and residents.

Ms. Sirois will be asked if she can put a notification about the March meeting on the site's main page. Discussion occurred about different possibilities of people and/or businesses that could help work on the site.

### **Review of East Hampton Events Quarterly Magazine**

Chairman Solomon asked the businesses representatives present their thoughts on the Magazine. Shelley Morariu of Sunshine Baskets suggested a blurb on the inside about the photo on the cover.

Walt Jedziniak of Walk Jedziniak Photography stated that he has an ad in the magazine and that he loves it and thinks it is a good resource, especially for the Park & Rec information included, and the town phone numbers. He noted that local business contacts can be found within the ads.

Mr. Turner asked if the magazine is self-sustaining with the ads. Mr. Csere had not heard, but suggested the Town Manager may know. Staff to ask Ms. Sirois for the next submission deadline and forward that to the Commission.

It was noted that the Commission would like to put an EDC event calendar in the magazine to include the Strawberry Festival, the Summer Business Showcase, and EDC meeting dates. Mr. Turner noted that copies could be brought to these events and given out at the EDC table.

### **New Business**

A way to obtain a list of new businesses each month was discussed. This item will be on the April meeting agenda to discuss with the Town Manager.

Ms. Adams noted that she is still reaching out to bakeries, with not much success. She also referred the owner of Bears BBQ to the Town Manager.

Mr. Turner asked about the water in town. Mr. Csere noted the Task Force is still in the same position as last month - they have identified 3 firms to propose bids for interconnectivity.

Mr. Monahan stated that the town needs a forum to assist new businesses. He also asked about the Village Center and the problems for development in that area. This will be included on the April agenda as well.

### **Town Manager's Report:** None

### **Public Comments**

Jessica Stewart, owner of Abbeez, stated that they are struggling to get the word out of the new ownership (as of 10/31/16). She noted that they put in an ad in the EH Events Magazine but that it came on Christmas Eve so she believes no one looked at it. Abbeez is holding events like Little League registration and a fundraiser on April 30 for the new playground/ Park & Rec. She also noted that they now have ice cream and the broken machine is fixed.

Walt Jedziniak of Walk Jedziniak Photography stated that he has been trying to partner with other businesses in town. For example, Red Door was looking to get more East Hampton High School students to purchase prom dresses, and this is his same demographic for senior photos, so they partnered to do a prom dress model search/photos, which is mutually beneficial. He suggested a forum available for the EDC to help businesses looking for the same thing to partner and help them match up.

Shelley Morariu, owner of Sunshine Baskets, stated she does events such as the small business event recently held at KOCO, and one at Memorial School around the holidays. She noted that she advertises on Facebook and in the Events magazine. Since she cannot rent a storefront she suggests an event, possibly a group event in an empty store front in the Village Center.

Chris Koziel of CMK Sporting Goods stated that he is looking for the same thing. A community room they could use would be great.

Ms. Hall noted that the vendor fairs, like at KOCO, are well-received. She suggested the EDC hold one as it would also help get the word out about the EDC, since many business community members do not know about the EDC. She also suggested hearing from State Rep. Ziobron as she has heard complaints from businesses in town. A vendor fair will be discussed at the April meeting.

Further discussion occurred on a vendor fair. Mr. Jedziniak suggested partnering with a charity. Chairperson Solomon suggested the business community finding a space, then the EDC could promote it. A possibility of doing this 4 times per year was discussed, and that the business showcase event could also be a vendor fair.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti  
Recording Clerk