

**Town of East Hampton  
Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 21, 2017  
East Hampton Middle School Commons**

**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 February 21, 2017. Voted 6-0.*

**Public Comments:**

Lisa Ogulchinski and Manny Cacoma from Liberty Bank introduced themselves.

**Old Business**

**New Business Update**

There was some discussion about the old cabinet shop (building next to the Abbeez plaza on N. Main) with speculation that a possible bakery is opening there. Mr. Turner will stop in and speak to the owners on behalf of the EDC.

Ms. Hall asked if anyone has reached out regarding the open store front on Main Street, next to Sophias. The boutique that was there moved down the street.

**Belltown Spotlight on Business**

Rossini's is enjoying the spotlight on business now; KOCO is next (after April 2). A letter was received in support of Abbeez as a spotlight business from Kristin Ploszay; this was filed for future consideration.

*A motion was made by Ms. Adams, seconded by Mr. Csere, to nominate Skincare Spa of East Hampton as a Belltown Spotlight on Business for June. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Mr. Csere noted that Rossini's and KOCO will be in the EH Events Magazine. He also stated that Cheryl Gioielli had an office space for rent in town and reached out to the EDC for advice on finding tenants. Ms. Adams put this up on the EDC facebook page and he thanked her for this.

**Business Showcase Event – Summer 2017**

Dean, owner of the Bevin House Bed & Breakfast, has offered his space for August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 PM (with set up at 6:30) for the business showcase. He will work with the EDC on parking, which was a concern. He believes he can fit

about 50 cars if he uses the lawn. The businesses will bring their own materials, tables, cloths, etc. Perhaps some can bring food.

*Mr. Monahan moved to hold the Business Showcase event at the Bevin House Bed & Breakfast on August 23, 2017 from 7:00 -8:00 P.M. Voted 60 in favor. Additional discussion: there is money in the budget for this event; though it was noted that we do not have to pay for the venue. There was question on limiting the amount of businesses that can participate; this will be addressed if more than 50 sign up. There will be a press release in the Rivereast. Ms. Adams will get back to the owner of the Bevin House.*

### **Sewer Fees & Assessment Process**

In reference to last month's discussion on sewer fees for Sports on 66, Mr. Csere stated that he had spoken with Tim Smith of the WPCA. Mr. Smith told him that the large sum was a one-time hook up fee, which is based on square footage of the building. The town is aiding the business by having them make payments over five years. Chairman Solomon noted that the price to hook up should be based on usage, not square footage. There was discussion on whether this is in line with what other towns charge. Mr. Turner noted the same thing happened at Hope Church because of the size of their building, and that this is hard for new businesses.

### **Notification to the EDC of New Businesses in Town**

Tabled until Mr. Maniscalco is able to attend to speak about.

### **New Business Vendor Fair**

The Lions health fair on April 8, 2017 was discussed. Mr. Csere believes it is sold out with health-related vendors, in which case he would not want to take room from that for the EDC to have an informational table. He has a meeting tomorrow night regarding this. Ms. Hall stated she would put it on the EDC Facebook page. Mr. Csere will obtain a list of organizations that will attend. The fair is 4/8/17 from 8:30 -12:30.

Ms. Hall mentioned an EDC table at the Strawberry fest. Lori Caldwell will be invited to the April meeting to discuss.

### **Discussion of Revitalization Issues in the Village Center**

Mr. Monahan attended a workshop of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and shared materials from that. They can help new and existing businesses in town, and there is future possibility of working with them to offer free workshops with specific items for businesses in town.

Chairman Solomon noted that the best way to get information on Village Center revitalization would be to recruit a business owner from there to the EDC. Ms. Hall noted that the EDC being present at events such as the Strawberry Festival will create opportunities for a relationship with the Center.

Mr. Monahan discussed revitalization of the town's website. He noted that changes could occur, like employment opportunities listed on the main page, linking with the schools, PD, Library, and stating community figures and facts on the main page. He will make any recommendations to the Town Manager and ask him how to handle this moving forward.

Mr. Csere noted that the main issue in the Village Center is water. He gave an update on the RFP for the Water Task Force for water interconnectivity; it has been sent to three firms and the Task Force is awaiting their responses. Possible alternative water sources were discussed as well as the process moving along to the Council with their recommendation. Ms. Adams asked to be kept updated as it is important for the EDC to support this to the Town Council. It was noted that being able to bring in future tax revenue with businesses in the Center would help the town in the long run, even if they have to spend money on water now. Mr. Monahan suggested the Task Force create a cost/benefit ratio.

**Town Manager's Report:** None

**Public Comments**

Mr. Csere asked the representatives from Liberty Bank to speak about the small business climate as they see it. Mr. Cacoma stated that they have seen positive growth in the first quarter (in the areas of E. Hampton, Portland, Cromwell & Middletown). He noted that owners are looking to hire skilled labor to expand and ramp up production. They came to the meeting because they want to be more involved with East Hampton and see what they can do to help businesses here. Ms. Ogulchinski stated that Liberty is committed to the towns they serve. In discussion of other bank's branches closing, there was talk of how banking is done differently now, with less branch traffic occurring, though Liberty is keeping their brick & mortar branches. They have a real focus toward business. Chairman Solomon thanked them for helping with the Thanksgiving drive. Also noted was that Liberty has a spotlight on business campaign in their lobby for local businesses. Mr. Cacoma stated that they also do work with the SBDC. Mr. Monahan suggested a possible forum on financing/funding with the SBDC and Liberty.

A general question to the public about interest in the business showcase on 8/23 was asked. Those in attendance would like to be part of it. It was noted that Walt Jedziniak and Shelley Marriero will have space there when they asked how to sign up.

**Chairperson Solomon adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti  
Recording Clerk