

Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
6:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
MINUTES

Present: Vice Chairman Tim Csere, Walt Jedziniak, Matthew Reich (arrived at 7:28PM.), Robyn Letourneau, and Jase Doane with Town Manager David Cox.

Absent: Chairman Ted Turner and Christopher Ott

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Csere called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Mr. Doane, seconded by Mr. Jedziniak, to approve of the December 15th, 2020 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

- a. **Discussion of the Bells on the Bridge Project:** Mr. Doane met with Cici Bevin to look through the different size and shape bells they have in stock and able to sell. It was suggested that cowbells would be better on the bridge than the rounded bell. But they came up with three possible options with the prices \$9.99 and under. The paint pen and engraving were tested on the bells and the results came out good. The paint has not come off since the tester bell was attached to the bridge. A red, White, and blue theme was suggested where either the bell was representing one of the colors or the phrase or message would be in the colors. There were also discussions with Parks & Rec Director Jeremy Hall. He suggested that the commission should reach out to CT DEEP for state approval to attach the bells to the bridge. He also mentioned that commission may also need to apply for a special use permit for putting the bells on the bridge. The state may own the trails and bridge on the Airline Trail. There are still come logistical aspects that need to be worked on for this event. The members discussed a possible alternate location if the bridge by the trails wouldn't work out. It was suggested to have that alternate location be the bridge next to the library.
- b. **Business Package Promotion & Tourism:** There are 12 copies left at the Town Hall. The printer has enough money from the commission for 2 more printings. It was suggested to do another printing once Covid has settled down. The members want to give the pamphlet more time so there could be some corrections and/or additions made for the next issue.
- c. **New Business Update/New Businesses with Planning & Zoning Approval/Review of P&Z Minutes:** The members reviewed the minutes and approvals.
- d. **New Business Banner Locations:** The banner is at Robert's Lakehouse and will stay there for two more weeks. The sandwich sign is at Belltown Tavern and then it will go to Finn Financial.

- e. **Belltown Spotlight on Business:** There are pictures and articles for the past Business of the Month nominees. There were no applications sent in to nominate a business. The members also discussed how they could help promote the Events Magazine more within the community. It was suggested to do another back page full ad for the next issue. The due date for the next issue would be February 3rd. Another suggestion would be to have an article submitted for the bells on the bridge event. The members want to think more on this and discuss it again at the next meeting.
- f. **Town Beautification:** This was tabled for next month's meeting.

New Business

- a. **Discussion of Vaccination Process for Employees & Public:** The state is at the beginning of the second phase of vaccinations. A person would need online access and an email to begin signing up for vaccinations. There are 45,000 vaccinations coming into the state weekly. Phase 1A was emergency workers/ responders. That group should be finished by mid-February. The teachers and Board of Education would be part of Phase 1B and that group would be finished in March. Phase 2 would include the age group 75+ and then the next age group would be 65+ and so on. The site needed to sign up for the vaccination is VAMS. It is easier for the employers to upload a list of their employee's names than it is for an individual to sign up on their own. The process to get everyone vaccinated is slow and tedious, but the state is moving along.

Town Manager's Report: The town is in the budgeting process. BOE is looking into a 3% increase for their budget. The town is also working on the capital budget and all of the budgets should come out on March 15th. The residential value went up 3-5% and the commercial value is at 5%. The construction industry is experiencing a lag in delivery times and in their schedules. The rising gas prices and cost of materials are all factors in the lag.

Public Comment: None from public. Ms. Letourneau wanted to share the progress of the sub-committee that is putting together the mission statement for the commission. The three of them met three weeks prior and discussed what the core pillars of the commission are. They decided on 4 main pillars. They are to retain and grow existing business, attract new business, diversify local economy, and tourism/ beautification. And within those four pillars there would be smaller objectives. Those objectives need to be discussed further with the sub-committee members. They want to establish short-term and long-term goals as well in their discussions.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Ms. Letourneau, seconded by Mr. Jedziniak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk