

Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Matthew Reich, Walt Jedziniak, Jase Doane, Jordan Higgins, and Marlene Geary.

Absent: Ted Turner

Call to Order: Chairman Reich called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. *A motion was made by Mr. Doane, seconded by Ms. Geary, to add sewer smell issue in Village Center to New Business of the agenda. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Approval of Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting of January 18, 2022:** *A motion was made by Mr. Jedziniak, seconded by Mr. Doane, to approve of the January 18, 2022 regular meeting minutes as written. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Public Comment: None

Presentations: None

Old Business:

- b. Update on Bells on the Bridge Project:** There was some discussion of a relaunch strategy for the Bells on the Bridge event. But there is no set plan yet. It was suggested to form a small sub-committee for the relaunch of the event. This will help to figure out a better plan and hold discussions for the event. For the sub-committee, there are town and state rules and regulations that need to be followed in order to be formed. There can be no more than 3 commission members on the sub-committee. The Village Center businesses had a record high sales and foot traffic over the holidays thanks to the Bells on the Bridge event.
- c. New Business Update/New Businesses with Planning & Zoning Approval/ Review of P&Z Minutes:** The members reviewed the Planning and Zoning minutes and motions from their last meeting. The home business regulations are moving to public hearings and getting closer to completion. The storage facility project at Sports on 66 is being moved along. The gas station on the corner of Route 16 and Main Street wanting to expand their store and pump station were declined by Planning and Zoning. The zone change didn't pass to allow them to expand their business. The Land Use department is working on the housing information for the region and town. There will be an update of the regional housing plan to involve affordable housing in town.

New Business

- a. **Discussion of Implementing a “Project Tracker”:** Mr. Higgins brought up an idea to keep a ‘Project Tracker’ for the commission. He suggested prioritizing projects and section for ‘making an effort’ and ‘progress on project’ column to keep track of progress of each project. It was suggested to include a ‘possible project/ future projects’ column for projects that may be in the future. A simple excel spreadsheet would be a great option for making the list. The tracker would be stored in a OneDrive folder designated for the commission use so it can be easily accessible to the members. Mr. Higgins stated he will come up with something and email to the members to review.
- b. **Promotion of Business of the Month and New Business Spotlight:** The business promotion forms are on the town website and can easily be filled out and emailed or submitted to the commission. There is a link on the town website that has information about National Entrepreneur Week.
- c. **Sewer Smell Issue in Village Center:** There has been reports of a sewer odor occurring in some Village Center businesses. The odor used to be found outside by the sidewalks and manholes. But there have been reports of the odor inside the businesses by drains, sinks, traps, and toilets. There is a pipe line that runs along the Airline Trail that brings sewage from Colchester to the water treatment facility on the edge of town on Route 66 near Cobalt. There has been an update from the Town Manager stating that Colchester used to chemically treat their waste water as it travels through the pipe. It is stated that Colchester doesn’t have the funds to continue treating their waste water as it travels to the treatment facility. Occasionally, the water sits in the pipe for some time before moving off to the facility. The odor has a continuous investigation for the problem and there are no signs of a break in the pipe. The town will keep looking and investigating where the odor is coming from.

Correspondence: None

Town Manager’s Report: The town budgeting and capital approval plan is being worked on for the fiscal year. The town is also discussing how the ARP funds will be used within the town. Looking into using capital money instead of tax payer money for projects in town. The town is also figuring out how to incorporate the bricks washed out in the Village Center during a recent storm. They are trying to include the bricks in a project to make the bricks more permanent to show their history and relevance in town. It was suggested to share with the Village Center businesses and community in town to get feedback about how to use the bricks.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Jedziniak, seconded by Mr. Doane, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk