

Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 18, 2017
6:30 PM
East Hampton Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Jack Solomon, Tim Csere, Kate Adams, Ted Turner, Jim Monahan, Town Manager Mike Maniscalco, and Library Director Ellen Paul

Absent: Erin Hall

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

Approval of Minutes

- a) *A motion was made by Mr. Csere and seconded by Mr. Monahan to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2017. Voted 5-0.*

Public Comments: None

A to Z Database Demo

Library Director Ellen Paul presented a demo of the A to Z business database. A representative of that company was present by phone to answer questions and walk the group through usage of the database. This database can be accessible through the Library's website and available to anyone with an East Hampton Library card. A one-year subscription is \$1,700.

Possible uses for the database were discussed, along with creative funding possibilities and the need to market this as a tool. This item will stay on the agenda for August and Ms. Paul will come back with answers to some questions that arose.

Ms. Paul also noted that the Library will be conducting three small business workshops in the fall.

Old Business

New Business Update: Ms. Adams is trying to reach out to Marlborough Bakery, as they are being displaced from their current location. She also reached out to the owner of Trattoria in Hartford and some other area restaurants for possible recruitment. Park & Rec. Director Hall is trying to get the Fresh Monkee's smoothie truck to attend Thurs. evening events at Sears Park this summer; Ms. Adams is still in touch with them and trying to get them more involved with town because they are looking to open another site. They will also be attending the event at the Bevin House in August.

Belltown Spotlight on Business: Ms. Csere noted that he met with Bill McMinn of the East Hampton Events Magazine and Mr. McMinn is concerned about advertising participation in the town.

Abbeez is now the BOM. In August it will be American Distilling. Mr. Turner will be in touch with Mr. Jackowitz and with Loco Perro.

Mr. Csere moved and Ms. Adams seconded to have Loco Perro as the Belltown Spotlight on Business for September and Sports on 66 for October. Voted 5-0 in favor.

Commission Members' Business Outreach Reports: Mr. Monahan reported that he met with some businesses in the Village Center and talked to the Middlesex Chamber in regards to business resources to help those in the Center.

August 23rd Networking Event – Bevin House: Local businesses are being invited; this is a networking event for businesses so no public will be attending. Ten businesses have committed so far. The event will be held from 7:00 – 8:00 PM on August 23, 2017. Set up can begin at 6:30 PM. Ms. Adams will email EDC members with businesses that they can invite. Mr. Monahan will get a press release to the Rivereast.

New Business

New Business Recruitment

Fresh Monkee – Sears Park Summer: Previously discussed. Their smoothie truck may also be at the 250th Anniversary party on Oct. 7th at Center School.

Other New Business Prospects: A High School regatta is being planned for the lake which could be a potential hit for local businesses.

Town Manager's Report

1 Watrous Street: This is the town-owned property that is currently blighted and filled with junk. The Town is signing a contract with a cleaning company that will remove everything from inside and outside the building. Also noted was that Starr Auto has increased business since removal of the Brownfields building at 13 Watrous.

Middletown Area Transit (MAT): The MAT is facing financial trouble. There are people who take the MAT into East Hampton from other areas for work. Mr. Maniscalco and other town leaders are working with MAT to help them move forward and better align their board with statutory requirements for transit districts.

Fat Orange Cat Brewery: They are looking to relocate within East Hampton as they have outgrown their parking at their current location. It is a priority to work with them on staying in town.

PD/Town Hall Project: A rendering of the proposed building will be released to the Building Committee tomorrow. The project is on track to be voted on during the November referendum. The current Town Hall building will be sold if the project moves forward and the EDC's help with that will be requested.

St. Clements Marina Fire: It appears they were conducting illegal kitchen activities at the Marina. The town will be working with them to bring them into compliance with zoning regulations.

Christopher Brook Bridge: The project is complete and the bridge has been renamed as the Jim Morris Memorial Bridge. The total project was over \$1,000,000 and was finished about \$8,000 over budget, partly due to traffic costs for making sure that Angelico's could remain open.

CGI Community Video: The community video includes multiple short spots on East Hampton. It will be available online and on the Town site. It was paid for by businesses that purchased ads that will be on the borders of the video.

Other: Mr. Maniscalco reported that a person wanting to open a coffee shop approached him about possibly locating in the Village Center. Additionally, there will be an intern in his office for the summer. The current EDC budget is \$4,527.00.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: *Chairman Solomon adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m..*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Clerk