

**Town of East Hampton**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

6:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM #201 AND VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

**Present:** Walt Jedziniak, Chairperson Marlene Geary, Jordan Higgins, Sean Flynn, and Ted Turner (left at 7:45 P.M.) with Town Manager Dave Cox.

**Absent:** None.

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Geary called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

**Adoption of Agenda:** *A motion was made by Mr. Jedziniak, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to adopt the agenda with some changes. Move Town Manager's report to #5, switch Continued Business with New Business, and have section #9 for announcements. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Jedziniak, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to approve of the November 15, 2022 regular meeting minutes with some changes. In the last sentence of New Business the word 'offered' should be added after Mr. Philhower's name. Under the Discussion of the Business Incentive Program section it was suggested to replace 'no' with 'zero' in the sentence 'There was a suggestion to make revision to the program packet that applicants can't be awarded no points if they've spent a significant amount of money and investment to build/ start up a local business.' In the Town Manager's report there are two misspelled words, aquafer and bedrock. They should be changed to aquifer and bed rock. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

**Public Comment:** Brian Corvo, member of the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency, attended the meeting via Zoom to introduce himself and give the commission members an update. A new Chairman, Mr. Baldassario, was appointed for the agency. A member of the agency will attend an EDC meeting quarterly to give updates and keep the commission in the loop. The Brownfields members finished drafting an application for an EPA grant submitted at the end of November. While the members wait for the results; they are planning their next steps and possible other funding sources for future projects.

**Town Manager's Report:** The Town Manager gave updates on the drinking water project in town. At the Oakum Dock site, the water was tested for minerals and metals. There was another test performed on the water to detect new emerging chemicals, including PFAS. The results from the test were very positive, with only a tiny amount being detected in the water. The engineer has been directed to begin the modeling and preliminary work design for using the Oakum Dock site as the source. It is permitted for 750,000 gallons of water, at the moment. The steps needed to permit the site for use and the availability of expanding on that site will be investigated and

tested. The committee will meet around the beginning of February. There will be an informational meeting for the community held in March to help make people aware and to update them on the progress of the project. There is continued interest in the 1 and 13 Watrous and 13 Summit properties in town. The RFP will be revised and sent out again for proposals. The town has taken ownership of the 13 Summit Street property. The properties could be utilized for mixed use business and residence or just for commercial/ business use. The topic of use for the sites has been discussed to help find the best possible plan for the properties.

- a. **New Business Update/New Businesses with Planning & Zoning Approval/ Review of P&Z Minutes:** The members reviewed and discussed the minutes and motions from the last Planning and Zoning meeting. There was discussion of bringing back the Business of the Month and utilizing the New Business signs once a month. This could help spark interest in the community and in potential businesses in coming to town. It was suggested to add Business of the Month and New Business to the agenda in their own section.

### **Continuing Business**

- a. **Review of Ideas/Action Items on Planner:** The members looked at the excel sheet for the event tracker. Each item listed was discussed and updated with one item being added to the list. It was decided that Chairperson Geary and Mr. Higgins would meet up to clean the excel sheet and send the updated version to the members.
- b. **Revisiting Training:** The members briefly discussed training and classes for the members.

### **New Business**

- a. **Welcome New Member:** The members welcomed a new member to the commission. Sean Flynn, the new member, introduced himself along with the other members.
- b. **Discussion of 2023 Planning:** The members discussed forming a year-long plan. Where the commission wants to be and achieve. Set up some structure for the commission. What does success look like to the commission? The members should think on what the commission should do and how to enrich the local business and economic situation in town. Track the 'pulse' of the town. It was suggested to look at and listen to what the residents are asking for and what businesses they would want coming to town.
- c. **Relationship with Town Groups (e.g. Village Center Association):** There was discussion of inviting groups to come to the EDC meetings to speak up, reach out, gain more information, and knowledge about the commission and happenings in town. The member discussed informing the residents and community about the actual nature of the meetings. The meetings aren't as structured as other meetings like the Town Council or the Board of Education meetings. It was pointed out that East Hampton lacks a business association in the town. The members decided to look into starting such an association.
- d. **Regional/State Organization Outreach:** There was discussion of which groups the commission could reach out to in the community and in other neighboring towns. It was suggested to reach out to the RiverCOG to establish a relationship with the commission.

### **Correspondence:** None

**Announcements:** Devine Jewelry has a newly updated website [devinejewelry.com](http://devinejewelry.com). Small Business Saturday on 11/26. December in the Village was on 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17. Jingle Bell Parade was 12/9. Rule of 3 Brewing had a Sunday Funday on 12/18. Black Walnut Bakery has

expanded hours this week to support customers. Po's Rice & Spice is having a gift card sale 12/22-12/24 - 20% off of gift cards. Memory Maker finished this year's run of East Hampton Ornaments. Mr. Jedziniak provided the photo for the image on the ornament. Studio 13 & Pinshack have corporate event offerings. Kickback N Bowl has launched a winter bowling league focused on senior citizens.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** *A motion was made by Mr. Jedziniak, seconded by Mr. Higgins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk