

**Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting**
Tuesday, August 15, 2017
6:30 PM
East Hampton Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Jack Solomon, Tim Csere, Kate Adams, Ted Turner, Jim Monahan, Erin Hall, and Town Manager Mike Maniscalco

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 July 18, 2017. Voted 5-0 (Ms. Adams was not present during this vote).*

Public Comments: None

Old Business

New Business Update: Discussion occurred on a recent Facebook post in which a person was looking to open an unknown type of business in the Village Center. She was asking questions about rents and water. Mr. Monahan reached out to her and invited her to the Village Center focus group meeting that will happen Aug. 16th, as Mr. Smith from the WPCA will be speaking.

A new gift shop opened near Subway, and a massage therapist opened in the Village Center. Mr. Turner will reach out to the new businesses, and also Boheme boutique which recently relocated within the Center.

Ms. Hall moved and Mr. Turner seconded that a map of East Hampton will be provided at the next meeting and “territories” will be assigned to EDC members. When a new business opens in a respective member’s territory, that member will visit the business with information and a business card. Voted 6-0 in favor.

Ms. Hall moved and Mr. Turner seconded that a handout will be prepared for new businesses. Voted 6-0 in favor.

Discussion: Ms. Adams will circulate the handout she created previously, this will be used as a template for any new handout. Ms. Hall will take the lead on this.

Belltown Spotlight on Business: The photo that appeared in the Rivereast for Abeez’s Spotlight was missing the owner’s name; Mr. Csere has resubmitted the photo to the paper but it may not be published again. The photo will be printed correctly in the East Hampton Events Magazine.

American Distilling is currently the Belltown Spotlight Business. Probable photo opportunity Tues. 8/22 at 10 AM. The next businesses are Loco Perro and Sports on 66.

Commission Members' Business Outreach Reports: Mr. Monahan reported that the Village Center focus group will meet every third Wednesday. He is actively recruiting more businesses. Mr. Csere noted that the businesses being displaced by the construction of the new grocery store in Marlborough will need to move soon.

A to Z Database: EDC members received trial log-ins. Discussion occurred on how often the items were updated and the cost of the database. Chairman Solomon stated that he doesn't think that the EDC should purchase the database without a plan for how to utilize it.

Networking Event – Bevin House: The event will be held outdoors, weather permitting. As of now there are about 20 businesses confirmed with more possible. Mr. Turner will procure a table for the EDC's use; the tablecloth from the Town Hall can be used, and handouts will be printed.

Mr. Csere moved and Mr. Turner seconded to allot a maximum of \$300.00 for food and drinks for the August 23rd networking event at the Bevin House. Voted 6-0 in favor.

Discussion: The Bevin House will be asked if they can provide food/drink. If not, another business that is coming will be asked.

New Business

Mr. Csere noted that the Fat Orange Cat had their one-year anniversary this past weekend. They are doing well and still looking to move.

Town Manager's Report

Today was city hall selfie day. The CT Conference of Municipalities came to Town Hall and took pictures with employees in front of the Town Hall. The goal is recognize local government and the things they offer to the community. There is potential for a national award for the Town Hall most shared on social media.

Town staff is actively tackling hoarding issues in town through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes a team of social services, the Fire Marshal's office, the building, health and planning & zoning departments and more.

There are currently 24 new housing permit starts just for this summer compared to 4 and 6 in Marlborough and Portland.

A developer is currently looking into a space in town for a Dollar General. There has also been an inquiry into a possible ice cream store on Rt. 66.

An application has gone into the planning & zoning department for 3 Main St. to be re-zoned to professional or residential.

The PD/Town Hall Facility has received 8-24 approval from the planning & zoning committee for use as a municipal facility, as well as approval for financing from the Board of Finance. The next step is approval from the Town Council at a special meeting on Sept. 5 to send the facility forward to referendum in November. Information will be provided at the Fireworks at the High School on Aug. 19th, and at a public forum held by the building committee on Aug. 29.

Mr. Maniscalco noted that fourteen properties had been looked at in the Village Center as possible locations for this facility. They were all disqualified for various reasons such as brownfields contamination, being in a flood zone (statutorily a Town Hall cannot be located in a flood zone), water problems, etc. There have been issues with the process for the town to purchase land/buildings. Times that they have tried, they have often been beat out by other purchasers because of municipal regulations and the length of time it takes to purchase. There was discussion on what Center School could be used for if it were to no longer be a school; the senior center/library complex will soon be at capacity and as the senior center may need to expand, Center School could see new life as a library/community center.

Mr. Turner asked about the water; a bid has been awarded to a firm for an interconnectivity feasibility study. An offer has been talked about with a developer who has wells on S. Main, he is involved in finishing the Tall Wood project now and may be interested in talking further when that is complete.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: *Chairman Solomon adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m..*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Clerk