

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

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Town Hall 2nd Floor Meeting Room #201 and via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: David May, Ted Turner, Evan Giza, Mary Milewski and Philip Restivo with David Cox.

Absent: Walt Jedziniak and Sean Flynn.

Call to Order: Town Manager Dave Cox called the meeting to order at 5:34 P.M. in the Town Hall 2nd floor meeting room #102 and via zoom. Mr. Turner stepped in as acting chair for the duration of the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Milewski, to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Giza, to approve the November 21, 2024 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Public Comment: Mr. Cox provided the new members with information about the commission, the agenda, and the meetings.

Introduction of New Members: The existing members introduced themselves to the new members. Brief backgrounds were given from the new members. Each member went around the table expressing their hopes and goals for the commission during the year.

Election of Chair/Vice Chair: *A motion was made Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Giza, to nominate Mr. Turner as Chairman of the commission. Voted 5-0 in favor.* There was no motion, but Mr. Jedziniak will remain Vice Chairman.

Town Manager's Report: The Town Manager gave the members an update on the Brownfields properties. The members reviewed the Planning and Zoning motions and tradenames report. There was an overview of the commission's ordinance for the new members. The tax abatement is one program the commission has for the businesses in the town. Last summer, the members reviewed and updated the program to make it more user friendly and more accessible to business owners. The commission is testing out a new system of nominating local businesses two months in advance. This would help to get the business owner to attend the meeting to be awarded and have their photo taken with the members. That would let the members get the article and photo submitted to the newspaper easier each month. Tonight's meeting, the members would be nominating businesses for June so the owners would be able to make it to the May meeting. The members also discussed businesses buying ad space in both the Rivereast and Events magazine. The owners of Events magazine stated they are seeing a slight decline in ad buying from local businesses.

Continuing Business

- a. **New Business of the Month – June Nomination:** The members discussed which businesses have the signs and which businesses still need a photo taken and an article written to submit to the Rivereast. The commission needs to move on to the next businesses

and clean up the backlog of nominations. Studio 201, the dance studio, needs to get a photo with the members. There needs to be a write up for Rule of Three brewing to submit an article in the newspaper. It was suggested to post the articles on the town's pages or groups on FaceBook. Another suggestion was to add the commission's website and the nominated business website to the posts for FaceBook. Wild Root tea and spice shop needs to be recognized at the May meeting since they were nominated but never received a sign. The members discussed getting signs moved to the next business by May 1st. *A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Turner, to nominate Mane Salon for New Business of the Month for June. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

- b. Business Spotlight – June Nomination:** *A motion was made by Ms. Milewski, seconded by Mr. May, to nominate Paradise Marine for Business Spotlight for June. Voted 5-0 in favor.* The members discussed figuring out a time when Studio 201 and Mr. Jedziniak is available for taking a photo for the article for the Rivereast.
- c. Around the Room: Ongoing EDC Projects:** No update
- d. EDC Website:** This topic was table for the next monthly meeting.
- e. Update on Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Regional EDC Meeting:** No update.

New Business: The members discussed thinking about a possible event, program, or project to do in the town. The subject and possible ideas would be discussed at the next meeting. There was discussion of purchasing a new banner for the commission since there is room in the budget. It was suggested to have a strategy session for each monthly meeting added to the agenda.

Correspondence: None

Announcements: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Milewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 P.M. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk