

**Town of East Hampton
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2017
6:30 PM
East Hampton Town Hall**

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Tim Csere, Ted Turner, Erin Hall, Kate Adams

Absent: Jack Solomon, Matthew Joseff

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

Approval of Minutes

- a) *A motion was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Ms. Hall to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2017. Voted 4-0.*

Public Comments: None

Old Business

New Business Update: There was discussion on the possibility of a new commercial business (Dollar General), and issues that arose with the zoning map.

There is a possibility of a CPA going into the building on the corner of Main/Rt. 66 that was just approved for a POR zone change. A new business is going into 205 West High.

Questions arose on the amount of traffic that goes by and/or will be generated by the Edgewater complex. The future decision on a stoplight would be made by the State.

Belltown Spotlight on Business: Loco Perro photo will be taken the following Saturday. Mr. Csere will check into the status of Sports on 66, which is supposed to be the next spotlight on business. He will also send a thank you letter to the Rivereast thanking the Rotary for the EDC sign.

Commission Members' Business Outreach Reports: This will be discussed during the November meeting.

New Business

Spring Business Showcase Event: Discussion was held on possible locations such as the Library, Center School, or the Congregational Church, as the Goff House is permanently rented out. Mr. Turner will contact someone about use of the Church for a Saturday at the end of April.

It would be good to have a representative from the Middlesex Chamber present. There was also discussion on a possible partnership with another event such as the Strawberry Fest or EH Soccer Club opening day, as there will be more people in the Center.

An idea for a goodie bag containing a coupon booklet for local businesses was discussed. This could be given out at other community events as well, such as the Ghost Run (which will be in early November.)

Ms. Hall moved and Mr. Turner seconded to discuss a coupon book and put an action plan into place at the next meeting for discussion with local businesses. Voted 4-0.

Discussion: The territory map will be divided at that time as well.

East Hampton Video by CGI: Mr. Maniscalco pulled the video up on his iPad for the members to view.

There were brief discussions on the EDC budget, a nice “Welcome to East Hampton” sign and/or an EDC intern for the summer.

At this time, Mr. Turner had to exit the meeting due to a prior obligation. This made it so there was no quorum, and the rest of this meeting was for discussion purposes only.

Town Manager’s Report: Mr. Maniscalco discussed the lack of a state budget, and possible implications for East Hampton. A deficit mitigation plan has been released to the Town Council in the event of significant cuts to the Town in order to avoid a supplemental tax bill. Standard & Poor’s still rates the Town at AAA, and Moody’s has stated that we are not on the negative outlook list because of our strong general fund and strong management practices for the community.

Mr. Maniscalco also noted the current tax sale and that there are some businesses on the list, which may be leases).

The property at 1 Watrous Street is being cleaned out. The goal for the future is to implement a RFP process for the general public to submit a business plan and an offer on the building.

There was discussion on the possible Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for the Village Center. This would effectively freeze taxes for those in the TIF District and any additional taxes are the “increment”, which is kept in a special fund that is then used for projects for the TIF district, such as beautification, revolving loan funds, grants, or event water improvements.

The Town Hall/PD/BOE project will be on the ballot on 11/7/17. There is a town meeting on 10/30/17 to send it the question to referendum.

Public Comments: Shelley Moreau asked where the Dollar General may be located; it is being discussed for where the Snack Shack now is. She asked if

there are any town-owned properties that are available for use by vendors. There is none at this time, but it was noted that a community space at the proposed new town facilities would be good for that.

Adjournment: *Vice Chairman Csere adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m..*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Clerk