



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Member Donna Resutek, and Alternate Stefanie Cunningham

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Chris Todd, Regular Members David Hurley and John Behrens

STAFF

PRESENT: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Acting Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:10 PM

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, shared details about the Chamber's Economic Development Committee meeting on April 10, 2018. Courtney Hendricson, CERC, Connecticut Economic Resource Center, was a guest speaker. She explained details about complimentary training CERC offers municipalities, CERC's self-assessment survey and specialized consultant services. The commission recalled their experience with CERC's fundamental training workshop and survey.

Ms. Houlihan shared the Chamber's progress with establishing a Manufacturing Council. She shared a pamphlet showcasing benefits. Chairman Kelly offered to review the material and provide feedback.

The commission discussed a letter dated March 1, 2018, from the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth announcing the commission's Final Report. The Commission was established pursuant to Public Act 17-2 Section 250 and charged with developing and recommending policies to achieve state government fiscal stability and promote economic growth and competitiveness. Commissioner Jim Smith will review the report at a regional chamber event on April 24, 2018, 8-10AM.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives – There was nothing to report on this item.

3. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits
a. GoLocal – Ellington, CT Audience Review – March 2018 report

The commission reviewed the March report, noting thirteen (13) new users during the month of March.

Efforts to create a business survey regarding Shop Ellington was tabled.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs – There was nothing to report on this item.
5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Ms. Houlihan shared details about the proposal submitted by the Big Y. They are looking to develop approximately 10 acres on the west side of Route 83 directly across the street from their current location. The proposal includes two phases, phase 1 involves six (6) self-serve gas pumps with a convenience store and drive-thru coffee service and phase 2 includes about 14,000 sf of retail.

The first annual Hockanum Brew Fest will be held on April 21, 2018, 1-4PM, in Rockville between the Hockanum River and Hockanum Mill. The event is a springtime, outdoor craft beer tasting experience and Cold Creek Brewery of Ellington will be featured.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the March 14, 2018 regular meeting minutes
MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2018 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.
2. Correspondence:
 - a. Sustainable CT – Local Actions, Statewide Impact 2018 Guide & Master Action List.

The commission reviewed the documentation and questioned the benefit of becoming a Sustainable CT town. They cited the participation benefits listed in the 2018 Guide. Ms. Houlihan provided an overview of the program, noting that some of the Town's existing practices may qualify for certification depending on the look-back period.
 - b. CEDAS: Best Practices for Land Use and Economic Development.
 - c. Ellington Earth Day, Saturday, April 12, 2018. The correct date of the event is April 21, 2018.
 - d. Public Information Meeting - Connecticut Department of Transportation, Monday, April 16, 2018, 6:30pm, Ellington Town Hall, bridge reconstruction over Charters Brook (Bridge No.02668) Route 140, Ellington.

Commissioner Resutek reported that she will not be present at the May meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Houlihan
Acting Recording Clerk