



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020, 7:00 PM  
ZOOM MEETING  
(IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE NOT PERMITTED DUE TO COVID19)  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROVIDED VIA ZOOM)**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Members Donna Resutek and David Hurley and Alternate Stefanie Cunningham. Vice Chairman Chris Todd joined the meeting at 7:36 PM.

**ABSENT:** Alternate Bryan Platt

## **STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Christine Post, Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Sean Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

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

## **III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Houlihan reported that the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization and therefore are in Phase 3 of the re-opening. The Chamber laid their Director off to preserve funds in their operating accounts and are doing electronic business showcases available on their website. Further updates include any golf outings scheduled for this fall, all travel events have been postponed and the Chamber is acting as liaison to help out small businesses that are struggling.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan stated this topic ties into the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) goals regarding farm friendly regulations and asked the Commission if this was something they want to work on. Commissioner Hurley suggested urging the Planning & Zoning Commission to work on including breweries and vineyards by drafting a referendum to amend that regulation to allow agricultural zones to include wineries and breweries. Ms. Houlihan will provide the Commission with the specific regulation (Section 7.14) of the Zoning Regulations and suggested the Commission look at what other towns have done and confirm with the statutes. Additionally, Ms. Houlihan will

forward to all commission members the farm regulations for review prior to the next meeting.

Oakridge Dairy accepted the offer from the Department of Agriculture. The proposal includes a ten percent (10%) contribution from Town of Ellington. Ms. Houlihan described in detail the properties and transaction amounts. She is will be in contact with the Finance Director to discuss next steps and hopes to present a proposal to the Board of Selectman in August.

3. Report: Connecticut Economic Development Association Best Practices
  - a. 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development, Chapter 6 Summary, Considerations/Strategies for Economic and Commercial Development

Ms. Houlihan reached out to several surrounding towns and of the towns that responded, she found that they have moved away from having their own plan and are instead using their POCD goals from an economic development standpoint. The Commission had discussed using the POCD as a driving force/guide for economic development and Chairman Kelly agrees with that idea and opened the topic up for the Commission to discuss.

Commissioner Hurley discussed creating a Celebrate Ellington program and working with a beautification committee especially regarding the downtown areas. The old slate sidewalks downtown are being replaced via a grant, which will change the look of downtown making this is an opportune time to work on further beautification. Ms. Houlihan will email the Commission the economic chapter and implementation pages of the POCD for their review prior to the next meeting. She reported that airport helicopter noise complaints have increased in recent months potentially due to COVID-19 influences insofar individuals are working from home and travel safety concerns.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

Ms. Houlihan reported that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has issued another procurement process regarding solar energy and is looking at areas in Ellington. She asked if the Commission wants to entertain proposals or do they still feel the same as when they rejected the last round of proposals. The Commission is still not in favor of fixed tax incentives. Commission Hurley asked Ms. Houlihan to find out what the Town of East Windsor did regarding this matter and she will inquire.

5. Report: Current Economic Activity
  - a. Temporary Certificate for Outdoor Dining

Ms. Houlihan reported that DiFiore Ravioli Shop is hopefully going to be opening soon and that only three restaurants obtained temporary outdoor dining certificates: Chuck Wagon, Trattoria da Lepri and Subway.

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of the May 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes

**MOVED (TODD) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

2. Correspondence:
  - a. Ellington Labor Force Monthly Reports 2006-May 2020

Ms. Houlihan wanted the Commission to have this information insofar as the potential impact on people's ability to pay their taxes.

- b. Verogy Solar, Notice of Public Outreach Campaign, East Windsor Solar One Project, 341 East Road, East Windsor, CT.

Chairman Kelly indicated there will not be any economic influence on Ellington, rather it will go to Eversource.

- c. Paycheck Protection Program extended to August 8, 2020

Ms. Houlihan reported this information is available on the Economic Development Commission's website.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:48 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine Post, Recording Clerk