



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Members David Hurley and Donna Resutek, and Alternates Stefanie Cunningham and Sulakshana Thanvanthri

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Chris Todd

STAFF

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Sean Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Ellington Town Hall Annex, 57 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

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

III. **ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Business Award nominations

The Commission reviewed the award categories and recalled Ellington businesses nominated in the past. The Commission discussed potential businesses in Ellington for possible nomination. Chairman Sean Kelly suggested that Oakridge Dairy be nominated for economic development or beautification. Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, explained that a business must be a Chamber member in order to qualify for award. Ms. Houlihan will confirm if Oakridge is a member and submit nomination if they are. The Commission concluded that there were no further nominations.

Ms. Houlihan reported that she is assisting the Chamber in establishing a Manufacturers Council. Bi-monthly meetings are scheduled and will begin with a kickoff meeting hosted by Dymotek in Ellington on September 20, 2018. Congressman Joe Courtney will attend and discuss workforce development. Information about affordable health care will be provided and a tour of the facility will be given.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives
Nothing to report.

3. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits
 - a. GoLocal – Ellington, CT Audience Review – May, June and July 2018 Reports

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Chairman Kelly reviewed the monthly activity reports and noted there were 18 overall users and 17 new viewers in July.

b. Shop Ellington 2018 Survey Results

Ms. Houlihan presented the survey sent out for Shop Ellington regarding use and awareness of the site. Over 120 emails were sent. The survey had 11 respondents and all but one is interested in learning more about Shop Ellington. Ms. Houlihan will reach out to the respondents and provide them with instructions.

Commissioner Thanvanthri suggested that Shop Ellington be posted on Facebook pages like Ellington Friends to get more people interested in the initiative. Shop Ellington is posted on the Town's website. Commissioner Hurley expressed interest in getting more involvement with the Plan of Conservation and Development update process.

4. Report: Sustainable Ellington

Ms. Houlihan submitted information completed by the Commission for Shop Ellington for Action 1.3 - Develop, Implement, and Maintain an Ongoing "Buy Local" Campaign; noting that the initiative is eligible for 10 points. The Commission agreed to update future agendas to include 1.3 - Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options, 1.4 - Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses, and 1.5 - Promote Sustainable Workforce Development.

5. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

Nothing to report.

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Chairman Kelly reported that Big Y received Planning and Zoning Commission approval for a self-service gas station, Big Y Express convenience store, a drive through coffee service, and some retail for phase 1 of the development; a site plan and building elevations were circulated. The project is not expected to start until next year, and includes extensive landscaping and expansion of sidewalk on the east side of Route 83.

Ms. Houlihan confirmed Cold Creek Brewery was approved for outdoor seating.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the April 11, 2018 and May 9, 2018 regular meeting minutes.
MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MAY 9, 2018 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence:

- a. Ellington Community Survey Report and Market Analysis –Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)

Chairman Kelly reported the top results from the public survey were education, development of Route 83, and preservation of open space and farmland. Chairman Kelly referred to two handouts from the latest POCD Update Committee. He suggested putting together a program to recognize local businesses by the Commission once a year. The Commission came to a consensus to review the information from both reports and develop ways to attract new businesses in town that aren't necessarily retail.

- b. Oakridge Times, June 17, 2018 and July 17, 2018
Chairman Kelly reported Oakridge Dairy is looking to put a methane digester behind the large barn on Jobs Hill Road.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk