



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

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

ABSENT: All members present

STAFF

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

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Ellington Town Hall Annex

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Houlihan, Ellington Town Planner reported the kickoff meeting for the Manufacturers Council has been postponed to 2019 to provide more time for outreach and to ensure the program is not tied to politics given the elections in November.

Ms. Houlihan reported to the commission upcoming site visits planned for local manufacturers. She will accompany Chamber representatives and First Selectman Lori Spielman on the visits. Visits will help raise awareness about the Manufacturers Council and about the health benefit plan offered through the Chamber. Dates have not been set up for the visits yet. Ms. Houlihan will report back to the commission when dates are scheduled.

Ms. Houlihan confirmed that Oakridge Dairy is not eligible for Chamber award because they are not members. The Chamber discussed establishing an honorary award program, but the new program is not expected to be in effect until next year.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Commissioner Hurley reported discussion by the Plan of Conservation and Development Update Commission that would allow more entertainment and retail uses on farms in town, e.g. event hosting, wineries, breweries, etc.

3. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits

a. GoLocal – Ellington, CT Audience Review – August 2018 Report

Ms. Houlihan reported that one new business claimed a microsite (Misiko Tax Services). She suggested sending recent home occupation applications information about how to claim a microsite. Chairman Kelly suggested thinking about ways the EDC can recognize local

businesses like giving awards similar to the Chamber's program. Commissioner Todd suggested that recognition events be held at local businesses. Commissioner Hurley supports a program to welcome and recognize new businesses to town. Commissioner Thanvanthri suggested that a welcome packet be sent to new businesses and include instructions on how to join GoLocal.

4. Report: Sustainable Ellington
 - a. 1.3 - Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options
 - b. 1.4 - Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses
 - c. 1.5 - Promote Sustainable Workforce DevelopmentSupport for local businesses was discussed under GoLocal. There was nothing further to report on this item at this time.
5. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs
Nothing to report on this item.
6. Report: Current Economic Activity
Ms. Houlihan reported that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Class 1 Renewable Energy Projects. Lendlease Energy wants to pursue a utility scale solar project at Ellington Airport. They would like to speak to the EDC next month about the fiscal benefits of the project. The property will be able to handle a 15 megawatt solar system if approved. Commissioner Hurley suggested an email be sent to the commission with a report and summary on the project.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the August 8, 2018 regular meeting minutes
MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 8, 2018 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.
2. Correspondence:
 - a. Renew membership with Tolland County Chamber of Commerce for October 10, 2018 through September 30, 2019.
MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (TODD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP WITH TOLLAND COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR OCTOBER 10, 2018 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.
 - b. Oakridge Times, August 17, 2018
Ms. Houlihan reported that Oakridge Dairy will start a home delivery service for farm fresh milk and other dairy products this fall.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk