



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Member David Hurley (arrived 7:22 PM) and Alternates Stefanie Cunningham and Bryan Platt.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Chris Todd, Regular Members Donna Resutek and Sulakshana Thanvanthri

STAFF

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

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Call for nominations for the 2019 Annual Member Awards Program

Ms. Houlihan presented the Chamber of Commerce annual call for business awards nominations. Ms. Houlihan reported the Chamber of Commerce has not received a nomination for beautification. Ms. Houlihan confirmed the write up for nominations has to be in by August 28th.

The commission agreed to nominate The Ivy for Beautification and the new Dunkin Donuts for Best New Business. Ms. Houlihan reported the town expects applications in from The Barnyard and Earthlight to expand their facilities. The commission agreed to nominate Modern Milkman for Economic Development. Ms. Houlihan confirmed she will put together draft nominations for the commission to look over next month.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives
 - a. Memo from First Selectman's Office – Right to Farm Ordinance Public Hearing July 8, 2019.

Ms. Houlihan reported she attended the town meeting for the Right to Farm Ordinance and it passed unanimously. She explained that Ellington is now a right to farm community.

3. Report: Business Directory / Sustainable Ellington
 - a. Shop Ellington Activity Report – June 2019
 - b. Letter addressed to WebQA – Notice of Termination

Ms. Houlihan reported a letter was issued to terminate services with WebQA.

- c. 1.4 - Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

Chairman Kelly referred back to the idea of having a Business After Hours event on October 16th for local businesses and elected leadership to have an open Q and A forum. Chairman Kelly suggested the event have more of a networking aspect.

Commissioner Platt reported he talked to Jamison Boucher, the owner of Cold Creek Brewery, and he is hesitant on hosting the event because the brewery holds events every Wednesday night. Ms. Houlihan suggested hosting at DiFiore's, the new Italian restaurant opening up at the end of August. Ms. Houlihan reported there is money within the budget to advertise the event. Ms. Houlihan suggested sending out email postcards to local businesses. Ms. Houlihan reported the next Ellington Connections articles are due this Friday. Ms. Houlihan reported she will send out a save the date for the event from 5PM-7PM, venue to be determined.

- d. 1.5 - Promote Sustainable Workforce Development
Discussion tabled.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

Chairman Kelly reported there has been no new notices.

5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Chairman Kelly reported Earthlight is expected to open a new facility.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the June 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 12, 2019 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence:
 - a. Oakridge Times – June 20, 2019
 - b. Request for Certification – Connecticut Economic Development Association's Best Practices for Economic Development and Land Use.

Commissioner Hurley explained his involvement with CEDAS (Connecticut Economic Development Association) and the development of the Best Practices certification program. He reported that CEDAS is trying to raise the bar on how communities review development proposals.

Ms. Houlihan reported the Planning Department has regular meetings on Thursdays to review land use proposals. Ms. Houlihan reported there is currently an online platform being worked on to manage land use applications of all sorts that will be accessible to the public.

In order to be valid for submission the commission needs a total of 70 points. Ms. Houlihan reported she has the ability to approve minor site plan applications. Ms. Houlihan reported she will work on the application and bring it to the commission for review at the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT (7:54) PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk