



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021, 7:00 PM  
ZOOM MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Members Chris Todd and David Hurley and Alternates Bryan Platt and Susan Conte. Alternate Amos Smith joined the meeting at 7:32 PM.

**ABSENT:** Vice Chairman Donna Resutek

**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 7:03 PM.

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

**III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce
  - a. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce letter dated January 4, 2021

The Commission has renewed their annual membership.

- b. 2021 Legislative Breakfast / Q&A Event Invite (February 17, 2021, 9AM-10AM)

Chairman Kelly stated that the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Legislative Breakfast via zoom and the legislative representatives which will be attending include Dan Champagne, Tim Ackert, Tammy Nuccio and Mike Winkler. Ms. Houlihan explained that the Chamber of Commerce is gathering questions for the legislative representatives ahead of the meeting and asked the commissioners if they had any questions to present. The commissioners decided on the following questions:

- From an economic development perspective what legislation is being considered to help small businesses recover from negative impacts from Covid-19 and the recession?
- What help would you provide to businesses that have been forced to close, once restrictions are lifted; for instance, would you consider a reduction in licensing and operating fees?

- What will your priorities be for using federal relief funds anticipated to be received this year?
- Would you consider delaying the FMLA taxes to help businesses during this next fiscal year?

c. Tolland County Chamber Tag Sale Trail event April 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Chairman Kelly relayed the information regarding the Tag Sale Trail and stated that parties do not need to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce nor is there a fee to participate. Ms. Houlihan reported that Pre-Covid-19, various events were hosted for local businesses and artisans to showcase their wares and services. Due to Covid-19, the event will be a trail throughout participating towns and the Chamber will create a map of all the locations that will be participating. Ms. Houlihan suggested, and the Commission agreed to share this information with the EDC's business distribution list and will also ask the First Selectman's staff to put the event information on Ellington's webpage and social media.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Nothing new to report.

3. Report: Connecticut Economic Development Association Best Practices  
a. Discuss future Shop Ellington event

The Commission decided to table this discussion for the next meeting to ascertain when and how many events the Commission will sponsor this year specifically keeping Covid-19 concerns in mind.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

a. Discuss possible amendment to the Tax Abatement Program to establish an abatement implementation schedule.

Chairman Kelly reviewed the proposed changes to the abatement implementation schedule. He then suggested that paragraph D be clarified to state that this is solely for existing Ellington based businesses.

Commissioner Todd would like to consider keeping the starting threshold for paragraph C at \$25,000.00 in alignment with what is offered for farmers. The commissioners discussed this idea and agreed.

Commissioner Hurley stated this abatement isn't for maintenance such as paving a driveway, or putting on a roof, and that perhaps the Commission should have some internal guidelines that aren't part of the actual abatement schedule. After discussion, the Commission decided to change the language of the last line prior to the schedule to read, "The length of time and percentage of fixed assessments for an eligible business is based on the cost of improvements, excluding routine maintenance expenditures, only to real property as follows."

**MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (TODD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE TAX ABATEMENT POLICY AND REFER TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.**

5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Chairman Kelly reported that Barnyard's Phase 1 was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of the January 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

**MOVED (TODD) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

2. Correspondence: **NONE**

Chairman Kelly mentioned that the Commission has an open seat for a regular member since Khara Dodds resigned.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (PLATT) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:50 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine Post, Recording Clerk