



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021, 7:00 PM  
HYBRID MEETING (ZOOM & IN-PERSON OPTIONS PROVIDED)**

**PRESENT:** In-person: Chairman Sean Kelly, Via Zoom: Regular Members Jim Fay, David Hurley and Chris Todd, and Alternate Amos Smith

**ABSENT:** Vice Chairman Donna Resutek and Alternate Bryan Platt

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** In-person: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Acting Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

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

**III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce
  - a. Annual member awards nomination announcement (due August 28, 2021)

The commission reviewed the Chamber award categories (economic development, corporate citizen, beautification, and best new business) and local businesses nominated in the past. By consensus, further discussion tabled to the August 11th meeting.

The Chamber will resume the annual Evening of Elegance Auction and Dinner on Saturday, November 13, 2021, at Georgina's from 5:30 PM to 11:00 PM.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan explained the status of the pending farmland preservation applications for Oakridge Dairy. Two of the potential three agricultural preservation easements received Town Meeting approval. Farm 3, located on the western side of Jobs Hill Road, will be the first to close within the next few months. Farms 1 will be the second to close later this year and includes land on Jobs Hill Road, Meadow Brook Road, and Hoffman Road. Farm 2 is at the beginning stage of review due to reconfiguration requests and includes land on the southern side of Meadow Brook Road.

3. Report: Connecticut Economic Development Association Best Practices
  - a. Discuss future business events.

The commission recapped past discussions for different business events. Earlier this year discussion centered around holding a business showcase to provide businesses an opportunity to present products and services, share employment opportunities, schedule tours, etc. Ms. Houlihan polled a few local businesses (Barn Yard, Bolles and Rice Packaging) and each expressed interest in participating, but mentioned need to coordinate attendance with vacation schedules and events like the Big E. After roundtable discussion, Commissioner Smith suggested coordinating with the Chamber to organize a business showcase event in 2022 with a broader base of businesses.

The commission discussed last year's Shop Ellington 2020 event and plans to hold another event this year in November kicking it off around Small Business Saturday.

The commission recalled past discussions with Don DiFiore, DiFiore Ravioli, and tentative plans for a Business After Hours event with the Chamber. The commission asked Ms. Houlihan to reconnect with Mr. DiFiore about holding an event at his establishment this fall.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs - No new abatement applications are present.
5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Ms. Houlihan described an application pending review by the Planning and Zoning Commission for Big Y West Phase II. Plans include a four-bay car wash and an approximate 5,000 s.f. sit down restaurant with outdoor patio.

The commission discussed the recent closing of Cold Creek Tavern (CCT) and potential plans for an expanded CCT to open in a different location in Ellington.

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

1. Approval of the May 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes.  
**MOVED (SMITH) SECONDED (FAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MAY 12, 2021, MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**
2. Correspondence  
The commission discussed the request from AdvanceCT asking for input for the top five "key" employers to list on updated Town Profiles for 2021; past profiles listed the top five/six largest employers. After roundtable discussion, the commission concurred Oakridge Dairy, Country Pure Foods, Dymotek, Earthlight, Barn Yard/Great Country Garages and Rice Packaging should be listed.

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

**MOVED (SMITH) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:22 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Houlihan, Acting Recording Clerk