



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021, 7:00 PM

IN PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

PRESENT: In person: Chairman Sean Kelly; Via Zoom: Vice Chairman Donna Resutek and Regular Members Jim Fay and David Hurley

ABSENT: Regular Member Chris Todd and Alternates Amos Smith and 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 7:01 PM.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber)

- a. 64th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony, Wednesday, October 13, 2021, The Lodge at Crandall's Park, Tolland, CT., 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Ms. Houlihan attended the early portion of the annual meeting and reported BarnYard received an award for beautification for improvements to their property on Route 83.

- b. An Evening of Elegance Auction, Saturday, November 13, 2021 Georgina's Banquet Facility, Bolton, CT. 5:30 pm.

- c. Annual membership fees invoice for October 2021 to September 2022.

MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (FAY) AND (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY) TO APPROVE MEMBERSHIP FOR OCTOBER 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2022 FOR THE TOLLAND COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives - Nothing new to report at this time.

3. Report: Connecticut Economic Development Association Best Practices

- a. Discuss future business events – draft press release for 2nd annual shop local campaign – Shop Ellington 2021, November 26, 2021 thru December 5, 2021.

An event at DiFiore Ravioli cannot be accommodated at this time, however Don DiFiore, owner, suggested reconnecting with him around the holidays.

Chairman Kelly cited progress made with the new Earthlight headquarters under construction on Route 83. He suggested speaking with Earthlight about holding an event at the new location once a certificate of occupancy is present. Earthlight hopes to complete construction early next year.

The commission discussed last year's Shop Ellington event and plans for this year. Ms. Houlihan shared last year's invitation to businesses, participating business list, event raffle card, and event flyer. She shared a similar program held in another Connecticut community. The commission opted to keep this year's event the same as last year's program. Ms. Houlihan will update the press release and draft ads for publishing in North Central News, Journal Inquirer, The Patch and on town social media platforms. Flyers will be displayed at popular businesses in town and in Town facilities. Small yard signs will be purchased.

Chairman Kelly explained budget funds cannot be used to purchase gift cards for raffle prizes due to Town policy and asked commissioners if they'd be willing to seek donations from local businesses. Discussion will be revisited at the November meeting.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs - No abatement applications are pending.

Chairman Kelly noted site work underway at Desco on Route 83 across the street from DiFiore Ravioli. Ms. Houlihan reported only site preparation is underway. Chairman Kelly recalled the tax abatement granted to Desco four or so years ago. Ms. Houlihan explained the abatement was approved but Desco never signed the required abatement agreement.

5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Progress with commercial construction activity along Route 83 was discussed. Commissioner Hurley asked if Ellington received notice when new businesses in Ellington registered with the Secretary of State. Ms. Houlihan explained notice is not received from the State, but is received from the Town Clerk's Office when a trade name certificate is filed. Ms. Houlihan will contact the State to see if a list of Ellington businesses can be obtained.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the August 11, 2021, regular meeting minutes.

MOVED (FAY) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY) TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2021, MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence
 - a. 2021 Town Profile – Ellington, Connecticut

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (FAY) AND (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY) TO ADJOURN AT 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Houlihan, Acting Recording Clerk