

To Be Approved

Minutes of a Special Meeting

Putnam Economic & Community Development Commission

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 Room 201 Time: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Barney Seney, ECD Director Delpha Very, ECD Chairman Paul Grenier, ECD Commission members Dawn Krasnecky, Doug Taylor, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Lefevre. Also in attendance: Board of Selectmen: Roy Simmons, Gloria Marion, Selectmen elect; Town Administrator Elaine Sistare, Land Use Agent Bruce Fitzback, Planning Commission members Pat Gilman and Ed Briere, Planning Chairman.

Absent: Commission Members Lee Konicki and Ron Coderre

Chairman opened meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Expenditure for Beautification Projects/s from ECD Trust Fund*: Upon brief discussion, Commission member Taylor motioned to table the agenda item, seconded by Commission member Krasnecky, motion approved.

ECD Strategic Planning and S.W.O.T Analysis: ECD Commission Director Very shared the benefit going through the exercise of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats abbreviated as S.W.O.T. The Planning Commission and Board of Selectmen were invited to share their thoughts and views. Discussion ensued. ECD Chairman Grenier jotted all the input on a large easel pad for all to view. **Strengths** identified: community involvement, town events, First Fridays, PBA events, Y.M.C.A, low crime rate, Rte. 395, tri-state hub, friendly, low taxes, hospital, the river, small town appeal-welcoming, trails-walkability, artistic/ cultural hub, farmer's market, accessible utilities, merchant participation-non-profits too, Industrial Park, shopping hub, local school, local news- Villager, Putnam Town Crier, Shopper's Guide and W.I.N.Y radio. **Weaknesses** identified: Mill redevelopment, parking, Housing-market rate; quality, absentee landlords, apartments, single-family and over 55 units, Blight, no large property for commercial development, underutilized and private property, Armory, Zoning, empty store fronts, no eminent domain allowed, diversity-young people don't stay-we don't attract them, High unemployment, lack of high paying jobs, tennis courts/skate park in poor condition, and non-skilled labor force. **Opportunities** identified: Cannabis, selling experience, pet industry, energy/solar power, creative workforce development, Mill redevelopment, Palo property, Trail development, education-new programs, expand High school program, start in the middle school and survey people/parents. **Threats** identified: State business attitude and empty mills. Due to time constraint, the meeting ended before additional threats could be listed.

The ECD Director, at the end of the meeting, passed around the results of the same exercise completed back in 2010.

Adjournment*: Member Krasnecky motioned to adjourn, seconded by Member Taylor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Jackie Lefevre