

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2022

Members Present: Brian Banak, Susan Thorner, Howard Orr, Jack Henry, John McGuire, Gayle Demko, alternate

Also Present: First Selectman, Colin Moll, Recording Secretary, Ellie Binns

1. Co-Chair, Brian Banak called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM
2. Minutes

The minutes of the September 15, 2022 regular meeting and the October 13, 2022 special meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Public Input – None
4. Business Contact Committee Report

John McGuire reported that three businesses have been interviewed and four to six more are scheduled. The response has been very enthusiastic and he suggested that existing businesses could be helpful in getting the message out to businesses that might be interested in coming to Town. The businesses that were interviewed have also been interested in participating in the business spotlight on the Town website. Colin Moll suggested that the names of those interested are forwarded to him so he can work with the IT department to get them on the website. It was suggested that when a new Economic Development Coordinator is on board that individual could coordinate this process moving forward. There was also discussion of businesses having after hour's gatherings. Ms. Demko mentioned that Simsbury has a kiosk with information about local businesses that might be a good idea for Suffield. Mr. McGuire also mentioned that he is still looking to expand the team of interviewers.

5. Light Industrial Update

Mr. Hawkins was unable to attend the meeting, so he had submitted a written report to the Commission highlighting the progress and changes in the industrial zones which included the sale of the C& S Wholesale Grocers property at 1120 Harvey Lane, progress on the Tax Abatement Ordinance, the sale of 1140 and 1148 South Street, interest in the property located at 1022 East Street South, and the progress on 1760 Mapleton Avenue by the Yeshiva Academy.

6. Town Center Update

Mr. Hawkins report contained information on the leasing of space at 123 and 136 Mountain Road, a new breakfast and lunch restaurant opening at 82 North Main Street, progress on the road design estimate for Ff Tyler Place, the purchase of 200 Mountain Road, the new package store on Thompsonville Road, and plans for renovation of the former Saint Joseph's Church on South Main Street.

Mr. Hawkins report also updated the Commission on recent grant applications, progress on the Facility Master Plan, recent farmland and open space preservation projects, and interviews for the Economic Development Coordinator position.

First Selectman Moll brought the Commission up to date on activities that are planned, including the Halloween drive through event at Sunrise Park on October 20-23rd and October 27-30th. There will be Trick or Treating at the Town Hall on October 31st from 2 to 5pm. He also mentioned that Suffield Alight would be held again this year on Main Street on December 2nd.

With nothing further to come before the Commission, Mr. Orr moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 AM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Demko and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Binns, Recording Secretary