

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
February 15, 2024

Members Present: Gayle Demko – Chair, John McGuire – Secretary, Jeff Girard, Bob Kelly, Maria Silvestri.

Also Present: Chad Kuzontkoski – Economic Development Specialist, Ellie Binns - Recording Secretary

1. Gayle Demko called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. and in the absence of Brian Banak and Jack Henrie appointed Jeff Girard and Maria Silvestri as a voting members for this meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the January 28, 2024 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Input – None

4. Goman and York Presentation

Mike Goman was unable to make the meeting due to a weather related flight delay. Mr. Kelly will contact him and try to arrange for him to be at the April 18th meeting. Mr. Kuzontkoski reported that there will be a meeting in Suffield on February 22nd with the Connecticut Main Street representatives for them to do an annual assessment of the downtown area. It was noted that having this report prior to meeting with Mike Goman would work out well.

5. Commission Project Update: Art Walk Action Plan

Ms. Silvestri reported that she has a meeting set up with Suffield Academy to talk about the Art Walk and what their involvement could be. The May 18th date coincides with the date of the Academy's annual art show. Members went through the list of tasks that Ms. Demko had identified and selected areas that they would work on. The list also delineated different organizations to be involved with ideas of events and possible staffing. Commission members will contact them to flush out the details. The members then discussed the Seward Johnson Altelier Company sculptures and possible locations throughout the Town they could be placed. They also reviewed the catalogue to choose the most appropriate sculptures and discussed some potential contests or events that could be held around the statues. Funding for the Art Walk and statues will be solidified in the next 30 days and the schedule of tasks to meet the time line of a May 18th event. Ms. Silvestri made a motion to use Economic Development funds that are in the current budget, up to \$15,000.00 to fund the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. McGuire and passed unanimously. Ms. Demko will follow up on the cost and logistics of installing the statues, the contract, and funding.

6. Light Industrial Update

Mr. Kuzontkoski reported on recent inquiries into the Light Industrial zone and improvements suggested.

7. Town Center Update

Mr. Kuzontkoski reminded the Commission of the ribbon cutting scheduled for February 22nd at Ivy Rehab. He noted inquiries on office space generated from the listing on Loop Net.

8. Projects Report

Mr. Kuzontkoski updated the Commission on the inquiries and applications for the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) matching grant program. Applications will be accepted through March 15th.

He noted that there will be a networking event at the New England Air Museum sponsored by the Bradley Development League called “Bradley Flyover & Spring Gathering” on March 21st from 5-7 PM. He also noted the event at the State Capitol will be held with the Bradley Development League (BDL) on April 24th from 10 AM to 3 PM and he is contacting local businesses to see if they are interested in participating.

Mr. Kuzontkoski noted the grant program offered by the Women’s Business Development Council. He sent out information to businesses in Town that might qualify.

He mentioned that the Connecticut Main Street Center town assessment has been scheduled for February 22nd.

9. Adjournment

With nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Binns, Recording Secretary