

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 21, 2024

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

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

1. Gayle Demko called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2024 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Input – None

4. Commission Project Update: Art Walk

The Commission had decided on six of the Seward Johnson Atelier Company sculptures to be located around Town and came to a consensus for the locations. Ms. Demko will advise the installation company of the locations to get a cost. Ms. Silvestri reported that she had a meeting with Suffield Academy to talk about the Art Walk and this will coincide with their Art Exhibit. They were enthusiastic about coordinating their activities. First Church will have an artist doing an exhibit and Second Baptist Church will be having a choral performance. Ms. Demko reported that Jackie Hemond is working on the self-guided historic walking tour. Ms. Demko stated that there will be a front page article in the Suffield Observer promoting the event. She also noted that she had sent out 25 letters to local businesses asking for their support. Mr. Kuzontkoski will be pursuing grants in addition to the \$13,000.00 that will be allocated from the EDC budget. The additional estimated amount to raise for the event is between \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

5. TIF Grant Funding Review

Mr. Kuzontkoski reported on the applications received for Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) grant funding. There were more than twenty applications received and the total applied for was \$272,908.00. The available amount to grant is \$242,400.00. He pointed out that some of the funds requested were for money that has already been spent by the applicant, and the rules of the grant precluded those projects for reimbursement. The Commission members then discussed the various applications and ranked the work requested on a priority scale with the most visible exterior improvements and interior improvements in high traffic retail having the highest priority and interior improvements to individual office space having a lower priority. Commission member Jeff Girard had an application in for One Mountain Road which was the last application considered and he recused himself and left the meeting for that discussion. Mr. Kuzontkoski will further review the applications, and based on the rankings, make determinations as to the awards based on the available budget.

6. EDC Projects Report

Due to the time constraint of the meeting, Mr. Kuzontkoski distributed his report to the Commission members which he will send through email as well if there are any questions.

Adjournment

With nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Binns, Recording Secretary