

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 18, 2024

Members Present: Gayle Demko – Chair, John McGuire – Secretary, Maria Silvestri  
Also Present: Chad Kuzontkoski – Economic Development Specialist, Ellie Binns - Recording Secretary, Colin Moll – First Selectman

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

2. Minutes

The minutes of the March 21, 2024 regular meeting were corrected to change “Art Walk” to “Art Trail” and approved unanimously with that correction.

3. Public Input – None

4. Commission Project Update: Art Trail

Ms. Demko distributed a rough draft of the flyer that she put together for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Art Trail event with the list of the events, tours, art studio open houses and concert that are scheduled with the associated times. The flyer also has a map showing the six Seward Johnson statues and their locations. There will be a kiosk outside the Kent Memorial Library with information and a QR code to link visitors to the information. There will be signs indicating sponsors of the event on the green and in front of statues as well as in the publications for the Art Trail. Ms. Demko has arranged for the installation of the statues at no cost to the Town. Funds for Opioid Prevention will be used for the event to promote education and awareness.

Ms. Demko has submitted a second article to the Suffield Observer to be run in the May edition. Volunteers are needed for May 18<sup>th</sup> at the statues and on the green and local artists and organizations will be contacted. Mr. Kuzontkoski will be advertising through social media and will contact the schools to get information out.

5. State Capitol Event

Mr. Kuzontkoski reported on the plans for the event to be held at the State Capitol on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 210 Capitol Avenue which will run from 10 am to 3 pm. Anyone displaying material needs to arrive at 8:30 am for processing. Towns in the Bradley Development League will be participating with Suffield featuring Kongsberg Automotive, MetFin, Roaring Acres Alpacas, and Friends of the Farm at Hilltop (FOFAH). Mr. Kuzontkoski is having display banners made with the Town of Suffield seal. Ms. Demko will follow up with Hood and Mr. Kuzontkoski will follow up with Suffield Agriscience/FFA to encourage them to participate.

6. EDC Projects Report

Mr. Kuzontkoski reported on inquiries on the properties at 1140-1148 South Street and 1186 South Street in the Light Industrial Zone. He also noted that The Broad Brook Brewery property

was sold and will become the Hanger Pub and Brewery. Hilltop Academy Inc. has contacted staff and is interested in property for an independent school. Mr. Kuzontkoski spoke of the success of the Tax Investment Fund (TIF) program with 19 businesses being approved with a total of \$240,000.00 to be distributed for the approved projects. He also noted that the Small Business Passport event will be postponed until the fall or winter to be in the next fiscal budget. There was discussion about the draft of the video for EDC that was sent out to Commission members and revising it to have more information about demographics and be more focused on the economic development opportunities in Suffield. Mr. Kuzontkoski will continue to work on refining it with the comments in mind.

7. Adjournment

With nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Binns, Recording Secretary