



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024, 7:00 PM

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: In-Person: Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Member Cynthia Soto, and Alternate Michael Swanson; Via Zoom: Vice Chairman Donna Resutek and Regular Member David Hurley

ABSENT: Regular Member Chris Todd, Alternates Amos Smith and Sam Chang

STAFF

PRESENT: In Person: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

- a. Report concerning referral to the Board of Selectman to establish a new ordinance pursuant to CGS 12-81m, a municipal option to abate up to fifty percent of property taxes for dairy, fruit, vegetable, nursery, tobacco, and nontraditional farms.

Chairman Kelly thanked Town Planner Lisa Houlihan for the explanation she gave at the recent Public Hearing and support she provided for the ordinance on behalf of the Economic Development Commission (EDC). He reported the proposed new ordinance passed unanimously at Town Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024.

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Kelly reported that Keith Gauvin Roofing was officially submitted as the Ellington nomination for Corporate Citizen. Lisa reported that Keith Gauvin Roofing was awarded the 2024 Tolland County Chamber of Commerce Business Award. Lisa shared the annual awards meeting is on October 22, 2024, and she will present the award to Keith Gauvin Roofing. Chairman Kelly noted that all Ellington nominations have been successful. Additionally, Ms. Houlihan shared a Save The Date for the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast on December 4, 2024, from 8:30-11:30 AM. Lisa will provide an update on the location when it is selected.

3. Agricultural Initiatives

a. Ellington Farm Day 2024

Chairman Kelly stated the upcoming Ellington Farm Day is next Saturday, September 21, 2024. He announced there are 13 participating farms and encouraged the EDC to participate in the day's events. Lisa provided the official postcards for the event purchased from the authorization given at the EDC meeting in August 2024. Roughly 1,900 postcards will be distributed via Oakridge Dairy Modern Milkman deliveries. In addition, Lisa reported flyers will be posted at the upcoming Ellington Farmers Market, the Stafford Farmers Market, Hall Memorial Library, the Town of Ellington Recreation Department, Human Services and Senior Center. The flyer has been posted in the town's newsletter, The North Central News newspaper, Patch, Hartford Courant, and at the Ellington Town Hall. The notice was also posted at JRego's Gathering Place and Chuck Wagon. Vice Chairman Resutek asked if any were distributed to Star Hardware. Some members suggested passing out flyers to Star Hardware, Tractor Supply, and Ellington Agway. Chairman Kelly inquired about the Historical Society's participation in the event and Lisa reported they showcase a farm exhibit for it.

4. CEDAS Best Practices – Customer Service Satisfaction Survey Results

Chairman Kelly shared that there are no new completed surveys to report.

5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Chairman Kelly inquired about the expected opening date for No Coast Kitchen and Lisa reported there are no status updates for the opening. The owners inquired about a liquor license regarding a B.Y.O.B. policy. Lisa contacted the liquor division and reviewed local regulations and did not find any issues with the policy. Regular Member Hurley confirmed that he read an article advertising the business with B.Y.O.B.

Lisa reported that Starbucks and Go Health are expected to open by October 1st, 2024. Round table discussion ensued. Lisa reported progress with the Ellington Racquet Club.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget & Expenditures Update.

Chairman Kelly reported the new fiscal year began in July 2024 and the budget has been reset. Ms. Houlihan reported the budget has decreased by more than half overtime.

2. Approval of the August 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 14, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence/Discussion:

Vice Chairman inquired about a blow-up structure in front of Juliano's Pools. Commissioners believed the inflatable was being tested before The Big E. Round table discussion ensued.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (SWANSON) SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Dubois, Recording Clerk