

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
September 19, 2024

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

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

1. Gayle Demko called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM, and appointed Ms. Silvestri and Mr. Girard to act as full members in the absence of Mr. Banak and Mr. Henrie.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the June 20, 2024 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Input – None

4. Commission Project Update

Ms. Demko spoke about goals for the coming year and stressed the EDC’s role in supporting businesses in Suffield. She suggested having educational programs for the businesses and working with UConn to have programs on topics of interest. It would be beneficial to have information available to handout at restaurants and other establishments detailing what there is to do in Town. Mr. Kuzontkoski will work on pamphlets and information to be distributed. There was discussion about having a “Shop Local Passport” again in November possibly as a weeklong event and expanding the program to cover more businesses. There will be a 2026 celebration in Town possibly with a parade that the EDC can be involved in. Ms. Demko will keep the Commission informed. There was also discussion about interaction between the other commissions and keeping up to date on their projects. Ms. Binns will keep the EDC members updated on the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the Design Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals for their agendas and minutes. EDC members can also go to the Town website to sign up for updates for any commission.

Ms. Demko gave an update on the Enviro Kiosk that she has been researching that could be put out at the library for people to access information on self-guided tours and other pertinent information. The Town’s IT department can make it compatible with the Town website.

Mr. Girard will put together information on the Town’s sign regulations and the process for putting up signs so that the EDC can take a look at them and see how best to guide businesses or possibly help improve the regulations.

Ms. Demko reported that there was lots of positive feedback on the Seward Johnson statues and gift cards were given out for the selfie promotion that was done in conjunction with the statues. There was a thank you note distributed from Matt Falkowski who used the Tax Increment Financing grant program to do some work on his properties.

5. EDC Projects Report

Mr. Kuzontkoski distributed his written report which summarized the activities in the Light Industrial, Commercial and Town Center Village District (TCVD) for the month.

There was discussion about the second wave of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) grants with applications being accepted through the end of September. There was discussion about using the money for beautification in the TCVD and also setting up the program in other areas of Town. Mr. Kuzontkoski described the new promotion featuring a collaboration between local artists and farms that is under way. There was a discussion about the West Suffield Beautification project and having a plan done to be able to apply for grants with a shovel ready plan. He will contact some local landscape designers.

6. Adjournment

With nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Binns, Recording Secretary