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REC'D BY:
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Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
April 17, 2025

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

Also Present: Chad Kuzontkoski – Economic Development Specialist, Ellie Binns – Administrative Assistant

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

2. Minutes

The minutes of the March 20, 2025 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Public Input -None

4. Discussion with Paul Montinieri

Paul Montinieri gave a summary of his time in business in Suffield as the owner of Kelly Container on South Street and his time in Wethersfield Connecticut as a member of the Economic Development Commission and as Mayor for the Town. He discussed his experiences and his thoughts on building consensus by having a broad range of participants that cover all the demographics involved in the process of planning and how Wethersfield had a master plan committee. He sees many similarities between the two towns. Mr. Montinieri felt that the farm land in Suffield is a real asset and the walkability was also an important asset. He stressed the importance of determining the vision for the Town and noted that Wethersfield had a consultant to help them for the first six months with their master plan.

5. Commission Update – Gayle Demko

Ms. Demko updated the Commission on the kiosk that will be placed outside the library and noted there might be one installed at the Senior Center as well. She reported that First Selectman Moll and Director of Community Services Peter LeClerc are working on a plan for the Bridge Street property which could include some housing and a park that could qualify for grant funding. Ms. Demko distributed some pictures of murals as an idea for beautifying some areas of the center of Town. She also noted that planning is underway for activities to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

6. EDC Projects Report – Chad Kuzontkoski

Mr. Kuzontkoski distributed his written report which summarized the activities in the Light Industrial, Commercial and Town Center Village District zones for the month, noting that there are new signs for the multitenant space on Ucar St. with partial funding from the EDC matching sign grant. He also reported that a new tenant may be leasing the remaining portion of the old CVS location in the plaza on Mountain Road. The traffic island sponsorship and planters are getting a positive response with local businesses and organizations donating money. The planters have been ordered and the gardeners will be selecting the plants. The Suffield Art Trail will be on May 17th. The promotions for it have been circulated around Town and an article in the Suffield Observer. It is the same day as the May Market at the Hathaway House and activities will be at the Senior Center and the King House as well as other locations around town as

well as a town-wide tag sale that weekend. Mr. Kuzontkoski also noted that the CPACE Workshop will be taking place at the Windsor Town Hall at 10am on April 24th which will cover options for financing green upgrades. He also mentioned Capitol Day at the State Capitol is coming up on May 28th and he will contact the Suffield Agriscience Program about supplying boutonnières for the event.

7. Adjournment

With nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Binns Recording Secretary