

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
April 16, 2026

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

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

1. Chairman Demko called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.
2. Public Input - None
3. Commission Projects Update

Plans for the dog park on the east side of Stony Brook Park were discussed. A cost estimate for the water source using a driven point is still needed and Mr. Murray volunteered to follow up with the contractor. The other main costs would be for fencing, benches and umbrellas or canopies for shade. Once the facts and figures are determined, it can be brought before the Board of Selectman (BOS) and an article could be written in the Suffield Observer to inform the public.

Ms. Demko noted that a Google drive project planner has been set up for projects that the Commission is working on and the dog park is on that, as will be other projects and events going forward.

The Sunrise Park entrance project is awaiting the police department's approval so they can submit it to the State Department of Transformation.

The electronic touch screen kiosk with Town information to be put in front of the Kent Library is ready to be installed. Mr. Kuzontkoski and Ms. Demko will arrange for training for the Suffield IT department prior to the installation. Mr. Kuzontkoski also reported that the Town Maps that he has been working on are ready for printing and should be available for the Bradley Development League (BDL) Day at the Capitol on April 29th. Friends of the Farm at Hilltop will be participating as will other Towns in the BDL. Ms. Demko will check with the robotics club to see if they want to participate again and will contact Hood for ice cream. There was discussion about having a tear off map in addition to the brochure and the consensus was that it would be best to have a smaller print of both types to determine what works well.

Jeff Girard volunteered to follow up and coordinating with the State of Connecticut to get bike trail signs to direct people to the trail off of Phelps Road. There was also a discussion about having a community events calendar on line that people could access that would be comprehensive. Mr. Girard will also look into the best way to achieve that. Ms. Silvestri is continuing to work on the South Green improvements pursuing grant sources and getting estimates to prepare a presentation to the BOS.

4. 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. He reported that the soil testing to delineate the wetlands for the Town owned land at 1100 and 1140 South Street was done and the resulting report showed more wetlands than previously identified and may prevent further development. Commission members discussed the possibility of putting in a solar field. He also updated the Commission on the "Taste of Suffield" promotion which had 60 entrants and the winners will be announced as soon as they have all been notified. The third annual Suffield Art Trail will be held on May

16th. There are six locations planned and food trucks will be available. It was suggested that a banner might be placed at the Library and signage at the Babb's Fire House. This is scheduled at the same time as the Garden Club's May Market at the Phelps-Hatheway House, which attracts a lot of people from out of Town.

5. Minutes – March 19, 2026 Regular Meeting

Mr. Girard moved acceptance of the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murray and approved unanimously.

6. Adjournment

With nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Binns Recording Secretary