



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

5:30pm

Virtual Format Only

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

- 1) Housekeeping Items
 - a. Selection of Chair for November 2022 – October 2023 (current: Bob)
 - b. Selection of Vice Chair for November 2022 – October 2023 (current: Tom)
 - c. Liaison/Committee Appointments for November 2022 – October 2023
 - i. Zoning (current: Ron)
 - ii. Design Review (current: Bob)
 - iii. Sustainability Sub-Committee Representative (current: Bob)
 - iv. DEI Council (current: Tom)
 - v. Development Projects (current: Tom)
 - vi. Business Development Incentive Committee (current: Tom)
 - d. 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule
 - e. EDC Vacancy
 - f. Minutes of August 24, 2022
- 2) EDC 2021-2022 Annual Report
- 3) EDC 2022-2023 Work Plan Ideas
- 4) 2021-2022 EDC Work Plan Updates
- 5) Stakeholder and Liaison Updates
 - a. Main Street Partnership
 - b. Chamber of Commerce
 - c. Zoning
 - d. Design Review
 - e. Sustainability



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- f. DEI Council
- g. Development Projects
- h. Historical Society Support
- i. Other

Adjournment



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Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 5:30pm
Held Virtually via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tom Earl at 5:31pm. Commission members Ron Jodice, Carrie Meckel, Brooke Freeman, and Charmaine Seavy were present. Ex officio member Heather Goetz (Board of Selectmen) was also present. Staff members in attendance included: Maria Capriola, Town Manager; and Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager. Also in attendance was Bob Moody, President of the Simsbury Historical Society.

1) Minutes of June 22, 2022

Mr. Jodice made a motion to adopt the minutes of June 22, 2022 as presented. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2) Presentation: Simsbury Historical Society (Bob Moody)

Mr. Earl introduced Mr. Moody, and said that he recently met with the Historical Society and had a tour of the property. Following that visit, he suggested a presentation to the EDC.

Mr. Moody provided an overview of the Historical Society, noting that it is a gem in the center of town with ten buildings on two acres. He said that it is a catalyst for tourism, and the largest historical site in the Farmington Valley. He gave an overview of the operations, including the one full-time employee, hours of operation, and educational opportunities and programs. He said the goal is to make history available to anyone who visits.

Mr. Moody also reviewed the Historical Society's sources of revenue, including its efforts to secure grant funding. He noted that they could use assistance with grant writing as well as with information technology support.

Mr. Moody asked for feedback from the group as to whether the Historical Society is meeting expectations for programs, hours of operation, etc. Further discussion ensued regarding the Historical Society's upcoming capital campaign.

Ms. Capriola emphasized the positive connection between the Historical Society and the EDC; Mr. Earl volunteered to serve as the liaison to the Historical Society.

3) Stakeholder and Liaison Updates

a) Main Street Partnership

None

b) Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Earl relayed an update from Ms. Hilyard in her absence. There are two big events coming up: Celebrate the Valley on September 22-24; and Spooktacular on October 16.

c) Zoning

Mr. Jodice said that there will be a new dorm constructed at Ethel Walker; there were no other major projects to report on at this time. He said that the discussion on retail sale of cannabis is in progress. Mr. Earl inquired about the Barber Cove development on Iron Horse Boulevard. Mr. Jodice said that there have been no building permits issued yet. Ms. Capriola said that there were delays on permit review at the state level.

d) Design Review

None

e) Sustainability

None

f) DEI Council

Mr. Earl said that the group is currently doing a lot of work on affordable housing, and community surveys.

g) Development Projects

None

h) Other

None

4) EDC 2021-2022 EDC Work Plan Discussion and Assignments

In regards to the website audit, Ms. Seavy said that she and Ms. Freeman had begun their review and will be meeting with Ms. Appleby to discuss further.

In regards to business outreach, Ms. Capriola recapped the activity that occurred in the late spring/early summer, and said that visits would pick up again in the fall.

In regards to supporting entrepreneurs, Mr. Jodice inquired about the co-working website proposal. Ms. Capriola said that there is a need to present the proposal, along with the other three proposals from the Chamber of Commerce, to the Finance Sub-Committee for potential funding.

Adjournment

Mr. Jodice made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12pm. Ms. Seavy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Appleby
Deputy Town Manager



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Maria E. Capriola - Town Manager

To: Trish Munroe, Town Clerk

Cc: Economic Development Commission

From: Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager

Date: **TBD**

Re: Economic Development Commission -2023 Regular Meeting Schedule

At their meeting on **TBD**, the Economic Development Commission agreed to establish a regular meeting schedule for 2023. Meetings will be held every other month beginning in February, on the fourth Wednesday at 5:30pm unless otherwise noted below.

Meeting dates are as follows:

February 22, 2023

April 26, 2023

June 28, 2023

August 23, 2023

October 25, 2023

December 20, 2023 (third Wednesday due to proximity to the Christmas holiday)

The meetings will be held virtually or in a location to be determined. Meetings will be properly noticed in accordance with FOIA requirements.