



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Minutes - Adopted

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting Broadcast Live via SCTV

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:40pm. Commission members Ron Jodice, Charmaine Seavy, Tom Earl, Peter Van Loon and Brooke Freeman were present. Ex officio member Jackie Battos (Board of Selectmen) was also present. Staff members in attendance included Maria Capriola, Town Manager, Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager, Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Andrew 'Sherm' Sherman, Business & Career Center Coordinator.

1) Business Recovery

a) Oral Report from Main Street Partnership

Mr. Crowther gave an update in Ms. Nielsen's absence. She noted that the branding survey is open at www.ShopSimsbury.com, and that the deadline is June 3. Ms. Nielsen also relayed that the ribbon cutting for Roux is this Saturday at 2:30pm. Main Street has helped with all of the local and state permits, including the most recent provisional liquor permit.

b) Oral Report from Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Crowther said that the relevant update would be provided under item 2(c) below.

c) Oral Report from Business & Career Center Coordinator

Mr. Sherman said that the Library is reopening with pre-COVID hours as of June 1.

d) Other

None

2) 2020-2021 Work Plan Updates

a) Marketing

Ms. Seavy indicated that the branding survey is open, and that we need to spread it as widely as possible.

b) Business Outreach

Mr. Crowther said that there have been two business outreach visits since the last meeting: Curaleaf and McLean. He said that in regards to Curaleaf, there is potential for expansion if legalization of marijuana passes. In regards to McLean, they are in

the process of building 55 new apartments that are scheduled to open in June 2022. He said McLean indicated that they are managing fine with COVID, but that they have had difficulty bringing in new residents during the pandemic.

c) Co-working Spaces/Supporting Entrepreneurs

Ms. Appleby provided an overview of the website concept being worked on by this work stream along with the Chamber of Commerce. A customized website platform will connect property owners with professionals who are looking for short-term, temporary office space. The draft proposal is to have the website developed and managed with the in-house expertise from the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Battos suggested that we put a pause on this project until we have an opportunity to see how the pandemic has changed the needs in this area. Mr. Sherman said that the need was already there, indicating that space in the Library is in high demand. Mr. Jodice said that even before the pandemic, people were moving forward with remote work. Mr. Van Loon said that he is in support of this project. After some discussion, Mr. Van Loon made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that we proceed with this project. Mr. Jodice seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

d) Other

None

3) Liaison Updates

a) Zoning

Mr. Jodice said that Tractor Supply would be going into the space currently occupied by the bowling alley. He informed the committee that the draft short term rental ordinance was being finalized, and he provided an overview of the key issues that the ordinance intends to address.

b) Design Review

None

c) Sustainability

None

d) Development Projects

None

e) Other

None

4) Minutes April 28, 2021

Mr. Jodice made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 28, 2021 meeting as presented. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Jodice made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm. Ms. Seavy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Appleby
Deputy Town Manager