



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 5:30pm
Simsbury Public Library, Program Room 2 – 725 Hopmeadow Street

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:30pm. Commission members Peter Van Loon, Ron Jodice, Charmaine Seavy and Tom Earl were present. Ex officio members, Bill Rice (Planning Commission), and Diane Madigan (Zoning Commission) were also present. Staff members in attendance included Maria Capriola, Town Manager, Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development and Andrew 'Sherm' Sherman, Business Resource Center Coordinator.

1) EDC Adopted 2019-2020 Work Plan

a) Updated work streams/teams

- *Business Incentives* – Mr. Van Loon and Mr. Earl are working on draft updates to the policy.
- *Business Outreach* – Mr. Crowther gave an update on the Legislative Breakfast event that the Chamber of Commerce held on February 11th. Mr. Crowther noted that Tariffville Mill declined a visit from the EDC and Town staff. Mr. Crowther informed the group of how the EDC and Town staff's visit with Drake Hill Mall went prior to the night's EDC meeting. The feedback received from previous visits has been helpful. There have been comments on our effort to streamline and improve processes.
- *Support Entrepreneurs* – Mr. Van Loon described the difference between Business Incubator and Co-Working space. Mr. Van Loon said that they should start with supporting Sherm and the Business Resource Center at the library and then expand co-working spaces from there. Sherm gave an overview of the history of the Business Resource Center including ideas for changing the space to allow for new programming needs as well as creating an environment for home based workers. This would allow the Town to gather data that can be used to determine what type of co-working space will be needed. The team will prepare a position paper with the ultimate goal of presenting to the Board of Selectmen.
- *Marketing* – Ms. Capriola will reach out to Ms. Nielson about the marketing material to check on the status. The focus will be on materials that can be used for tourism, realtors, and business recruitment purposes.

2) Follow Up on 350th Committee Presentation from Previous Meeting

Mr. Crowther will follow-up with Ms. Cook to see if there are specific tasks the 350th Committee needs the EDC's help with.

3) Housekeeping Items

a) Reports/updates to and from EDC, Planning, Zoning, and Board of Selectmen liaisons

Mr. Rice stated that the Planning Commission is working on an update to the POCD as well as developing an affordable housing plan.

Mr. Jodice stated that Zoning is still working on updating their regulations, including home based businesses. Mr. Jodice also gave an update on the Short-Term Rental Ordinance Workgroup meetings.

Ms. Madigan also gave the group an update on the Zoning regulation review process.

4) Minutes

a) January 22, 2020

Mr. Jodice made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Earl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Capriola,
Town Manager