



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Economic Development Commission **Regular Meeting** **Minutes**

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 5:30pm
Held Virtually via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:34pm. Commission members Charmaine Seavy, Brooke Freeman, and Tom Earl were present. Staff members in attendance included Maria Capriola, Town Manager and Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist. Sarah Nielsen, Executive Director of the Simsbury Main Street Partnership, Rick Brush, Nicole Kodak and Cheryl Cook, were also present.

1) Minutes of February 23, 2022

Mr. Earl made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022 as presented. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2) Presentation: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council Housing Sub-Committee

Members from Simsbury's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council's Housing Sub-Committee joined the Economic Development Commission to lead a discussion about housing and diversity of housing in Simsbury. Ms. Cook, Ms. Kodak, and Mr. Brush led the group in a discussion on inclusive housing in Simsbury and how housing and economic development are connected.

3) Stakeholder and Liaison Updates

a. Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen updated the group on outdoor dining in Town. Ms. Nielsen stated she is giving a cell phone coverage update to the Board of Selectmen at their May 9th meeting. There was discussion on the marketing project.

b. Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Crowther gave an update on the latest Government Affairs Committee meeting where the economic value of the greenway was discussed.

c. Zoning

None

d. Design Review

Mr. Crowther said there have been several meetings over the last few weeks.

e. Sustainability

Mr. Crowther said they are working on assembling all the items needed for the application that is due in August.

f. SPIRIT

Mr. Earl said the SPIRIT Council updated their name to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council. Mr. Earl said they have several sub-committees but he has been focusing on the housing sub-committee as of late.

g. Development Projects

Mr. Earl and Mr. Crowther talked about a development project in town; Ms. Capriola said she will look into getting an update for the group.

h. Other

None

4) EDC 2021-2022 Work Plan Discussion and Assignments

- Mr. Crowther said the marketing work plan was discussed earlier in the meeting with the Main Street Partnership update.
- Mr. Crowther informed the group that Business Outreach visits are resuming with multiple meetings coming up. They are a way to introduce the new Director of Planning to local businesses but also for EDC members and Town Staff to get to know the businesses and have in depth conversations about doing business in Simsbury.
- Mr. Crowther discussed with the group of possibly having the Chamber website, Main Street website and Town's EDC webpage all connect together. Ms. Seavy said that should be done with links on the webpages. Ms. Freeman described a project of bringing uniformity to website links or bringing an outline or plan on how to approach that task.

Adjournment

Ms. Seavy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. Mr. Earl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Fitzgerald
Management Specialist