



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Economic Development Commission **Regular Meeting** **Minutes - ADOPTED**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting Broadcast Live via SCTV

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:32pm. Commission members Peter Van Loon, Ron Jodice, Charmaine Seavy and Tom Earl were present. Ex officio members Maria Capriola, Town Manager, Bill Rice (Planning Commission) and Jackie Battos (Board of Selectmen), were also present. Staff members in attendance included Maria Capriola, Town Manager, Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development, Andrew 'Sherm' Sherman, Business Resource Center Coordinator and Thomas Fitzgerald, Management Specialist. Guests Morgan Hilyard (Chamber of Commerce) and Sarah Nielsen (Main Street Partnership) were also present.

Mr. Crowther introduced Morgan Hilyard as the new Executive Director of the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce to the group.

1) Long Term Recovery Committee

Ms. Capriola, Mr. Glidden, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Earl gave the group an update on a webinar they attended about establishing a Long Term Recovery Committee for the town to deal with a focus on both business recovery as well as community recovery. This is an initiative the Governor has asked all Towns to create and models a formula used by the Federal and State governments after disasters like Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy.

2) Business Recovery

a) CCM Webinar RE: Business Recovery

Members who attended the webinar informed the group of what they learned.

b) Temporary Outdoor Dining for Restaurants

Mr. Glidden informed the group of his day visiting restaurants in town with other staff members to conduct inspections for preparation of outdoor dining due to the COVID pandemic. Mr. Glidden answered questions from the group about outdoor dining and the process.

c) Oral Report from Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen reported on all the activities that Main Street Partnership has been doing for the businesses in town during the shutdown. The group thanked Ms. Nielsen for all her efforts.

d) Oral Report from Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Hilyard reported on what the Chamber of Commerce has been doing to adapt to the current climate. Ms. Hilyard explained how the Chamber has had to switch from face-to-face interaction to more virtual meetings and email blasts to help business leaders in town.

e) Oral Report from Business Resource Librarian

Mr. Sherman reported on what he and the Library have been doing during the shutdown.

3) Minutes

a) February 26, 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 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Fitzgerald,
Management Specialist