



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting Broadcast Live via SCTV

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:30pm. Commission members Bob Crowther, Peter Van Loon, Brooke Freeman, 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 Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development, Andrew 'Sherm' Sherman, Business Resource Center Coordinator and Thomas Fitzgerald, Management Specialist. Guest Sarah Nielsen (Simsbury Main Street Partnership) was also present.

1) Business Recovery

a) Temporary Outdoor Dining for Restaurants

Mr. Glidden and Ms. Nielsen gave updates to the Commission on outdoor dining in Town. The public to visit the locations that are open to outdoor dining but to please adhere to the guidelines.

b) Oral Report from Main Street Partnership

Ms. Nielsen stated that the taste of Simsbury event is canceled this year due to the current pandemic. Ms. Nielsen said that Main Street is in a little bit of a quiet period currently but they are planning for a potential round 2 of COVID coinciding with Flu season. Ms. Nielsen said that the Chamber and Main Street are meeting to discuss how to maximize both entities to the best of Simsbury.

c) Oral Report from Business Resource Librarian

Mr. Sherman reported residents are still reaching out about COVID relief. He also informed the group that the Library has been doing a lot of work while it is closed to the public and that the curbside service is very popular. Mr. Sherman said that public computers are available by appointment with a limited number of computers available to follow social distancing.

d) Outreach to Stakeholders

Mr. Crowther and Mr. Earl have begun reaching out to businesses, non-profits, schools and faith based institutions in town to speak about their recovery efforts. Mr. Crowther informed the group about a conversation he had with the Director of Social Services about their efforts for helping the Simsbury community during the pandemic. Mr. Crowther and Mr. Earl went into in depth talks about what they learned from each conversation.

2) 2019-2020 Work Plan Updates

Mr. Van Loon asked the group for guidance on best approach for searching local landlords about creating co-working spaces. The group went into a lengthy discussion about the best way to go about creating a widespread co-working environment in town amongst a group of landlords in town.

Ms. Seavy said that the marketing group has no updates at the moment. Ms. Capriola updated the group on the marketing funds being set aside from the BOF at last year's close and that the town is working on rolling over those funds to the current year when Finance does their yearend wrap up.

3) New EDC Plans

Mr. Crowther asked the group to consider 3 new EDC plans to assist in the group's mission. The first of those plans was to have EDC members check in with local businesses while they are out shopping and then report back to the group about what they are hearing from the owners. The second of the plans was to have the EDC pick up projects from Main Street and the Chamber that have been pushed to the back burner due to the pandemic and recovery assistance. The third plan was to assign EDC members to new development projects as a contact to build relationships between the business, town and the EDC.

4) Minutes

a) June 24, 2020

Mr. Van Loon 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 6:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Fitzgerald,
Management Specialist