



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

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

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 5:30pm
Held Virtually via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:32pm. Commission members Ron Jodice, Peter Van Loon, and Brooke Freeman were present. Ex officio members Bill Rice (Planning Commission), Jackie Battos (Board of Selectmen) were also present. Staff members in attendance included Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager, Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist, and Andrew "Sherm" Sherman, Business & Career Center Coordinator. Also in attendance was Morgan Hilyard, Executive Director of Simsbury Chamber of Commerce.

1) EDC 2020 – 2021 Annual Report Preparation

Mr. Crowther led the group through the revisions to the draft Annual Report of the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Crowther solicited feedback after reviewing the report slide by slide. Sherm stated that the Library and the SPIRIT Council have a strong relationship and to potentially include that in the report.

2) 2020-2021 EDC Work Plan Updates

a) Marketing Project Update

Ms. Freeman reported that there is no update at this time.

b) Business Outreach

Mr. Crowther said that they are working to have more meetings set up and that the full group will be notified when the next one is so they can participate if they would like to.

c) Other

Mr. Crowther asked about the timeline for potentially funding the co-working website. Ms. Appleby gave a status report that included how the ARPA Work Group is approaching their work and how funds will be distributed. She said that a potential funding source for this item is to be determined. Ms. Hilyard stated the Chamber has finalized a few project proposals, including the co-working website, and once funding is received they can start to move forward.

3) Stakeholder and Liaison Updates

a) Main Street Partnership

Mr. Crowther read an update from Ms. Nielsen into the record.

b) Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Hilyard said the Chamber is very busy. They recently had their Health Expo, hosted at Septemberfeast, and they are planning for upcoming events in October on top of their normal business networking events. She mentioned the Chamber is still hearing that there is a lack of employees in the market and this is affecting businesses.

c) Business & Career Center

Sherm said the Library continues to receive large amounts of requests for outside groups to use the large meeting rooms and those rooms are now open to be used.

d) Zoning

Mr. Jodice said Zoning was quiet during the summer. Ms. Battos mentioned the Curaleaf expansion approved on Monday night.

e) Design Review

None

f) Sustainability

It was mentioned Sustainability and Clean Energy Task Force have been working together lately, and that there will be a proposal to the Board of Selectmen regarding a resolution declaring a climate emergency.

g) SPIRIT

Mr. Crowther stated that Mr. Tom Earl will be the SPIRIT liaison.

h) Development Projects

No update.

i) Other

None

4) Minutes August 25, 2021

Mr. Jodice made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 25, 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 6:19pm. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Fitzgerald
Management Specialist