Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 5:30pm
Held Virtually via Zoom

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tom Earl at 5:31pm. Commission members Ron Jodice, Carrie Meckel, Brooke Freeman, and Charmaine Seavy were present. Ex officio member Heather Goetz (Board of Selectmen) was also present. Staff members in attendance included: Maria Capriola, Town Manager; and Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager. Also in attendance was Bob Moody, President of the Simsbury Historical Society.

1) Minutes of June 22, 2022
Mr. Jodice made a motion to adopt the minutes of June 22, 2022 as presented. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2) Presentation: Simsbury Historical Society (Bob Moody)
Mr. Earl introduced Mr. Moody, and said that he recently met with the Historical Society and had a tour of the property. Following that visit, he suggested a presentation to the EDC.

Mr. Moody provided an overview of the Historical Society, noting that it is a gem in the center of town with ten buildings on two acres. He said that it is a catalyst for tourism, and the largest historical site in the Farmington Valley. He gave an overview of the operations, including the one full-time employee, hours of operation, and educational opportunities and programs. He said the goal is to make history available to anyone who visits.

Mr. Moody also reviewed the Historical Society’s sources of revenue, including its efforts to secure grant funding. He noted that they could use assistance with grant writing as well as with information technology support.

Mr. Moody asked for feedback from the group as to whether the Historical Society is meeting expectations for programs, hours of operation, etc. Further discussion ensued regarding the Historical Society’s upcoming capital campaign.

Ms. Capriola emphasized the positive connection between the Historical Society and the EDC; Mr. Earl volunteered to serve as the liaison to the Historical Society.

3) Stakeholder and Liaison Updates
   a) Main Street Partnership
      None
b) **Chamber of Commerce**  
Mr. Earl relayed an update from Ms. Hilyard in her absence. There are two big events coming up: Celebrate the Valley on September 22-24; and Spooktacular on October 16.

c) **Zoning**  
Mr. Jodice said that there will be a new dorm constructed at Ethel Walker; there were no other major projects to report on at this time. He said that the discussion on retail sale of cannabis is in progress. Mr. Earl inquired about the Barber Cove development on Iron Horse Boulevard. Mr. Jodice said that there have been no building permits issued yet. Ms. Capriola said that there were delays on permit review at the state level.

d) **Design Review**  
None

e) **Sustainability**  
None

f) **DEI Council**  
Mr. Earl said that the group is currently doing a lot of work on affordable housing, and community surveys.

g) **Development Projects**  
None

h) **Other**  
None

4) **EDC 2021-2022 EDC Work Plan Discussion and Assignments**  
In regards to the website audit, Ms. Seavy said that she and Ms. Freeman had begun their review and will be meeting with Ms. Appleby to discuss further.

In regards to business outreach, Ms. Capriola recapped the activity that occurred in the late spring/early summer, and said that visits would pick up again in the fall.

In regards to supporting entrepreneurs, Mr. Jodice inquired about the co-working website proposal. Ms. Capriola said that there is a need to present the proposal, along with the other three proposals from the Chamber of Commerce, to the Finance Sub-Committee for potential funding.

**Adjournment**  
Mr. Jodice made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12pm. Ms. Seavy seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Appleby  
Deputy Town Manager