**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

**Griswold Inn - Essex,CT**

**May 9, 2018 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chairman Janet Peckinpaugh, David Winstead, Ed Cook, Brian Weinstein, George Sexton, Planning, Betsy D’Amico and Peter Decker. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectmen, Susan Malan, Consultant and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Russ Smith

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peckinpaugh at 4:05pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The March meeting was cancelled so there were no minutes to approve..

**INTRODUCTION**

**Visitors:**

None

**Commissioners:**

No additional comment.

**REPORT FROM EDC CONSULTANT/SUSAN MALAN**

Ms. Malan discussed her report. Essex Olive Oyl closed and the space is available to rent. Truffle Shots may be moving. The market will be opeing in June 1-3 North Main. The Paint and Sip opened.

Essex Station is leasing. Wrights is on their third. tenant. The Doggy Daycare is still pending. 10 Main has withdrawn their application. Discussion was held regarding the possible housing Hope Partnership may bring to Spencer’s Coroner.

No Zoning Report.

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**Change in Course. New Plan for Parking in Essex**

Changing parking may be a benefit for our town. A study is suggested to be done regarding slant in parking on Main Street. Angled Parking would be on the right side. There would also be a bicycle lane on the left. This would be a way through keosiks you could pay for parking. Public spaces would be free. Mr. Decker likes the idea but wonders how the public will perceive this. Paid parking is not necessary. Paid parking would encourage people to find free public parking. There would not be additional space but we would also not loose space. The bicycle lane would be safer. Resident parking stickers could be issued. Paring us with UConn and their urban planning department and also where to to get fudning. Aestetically would be better. A traffic study may need to be done. Clearing snow during winter storms will be better. Pratt Street may also consider this option. This will need to go before the Traffic Authority. Electric cars ma need to be considered. This project for EDC could also help businesses. There may be a grant to pay for this. This will be researched. Pay for parking may not be a good idea. The parking lot behind Olive Oyls could have valet parking. This will also be researched. If Pratt has the available space this should be included in the change. The crosswalk at the end of Pratt needs to be changed for better viewing. A previous study has the widths of the streets.

This may have to go to a Public Hearing or Public Hearing.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS – How to Proceed with Parking Plan**

Ms. Peckinpaugh suggested creating a subcommittee to work with Planning, Traffic Authority and the Board of Selectmen.

Upon a moiton made by David Winstead and seconded by George Sexton the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to accept the parking proposal as prestend and to move forward.

This will need to be discussed with Mr. Needleman. He will advise who needs to be engaged to make this change.

Mr. Needleman arrived at 4:53pm. The Traffic Authority would be the next step and then it would be referred by the Board of Selectmen to Planning.

**Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations**

The next meeting June \_\_\_\_, 2018 at 4:00pm at Abbey’s.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:06p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk