

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Abby's - Essex, CT

June 13, 2018 4:00PM

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chairman Janet Peckinpaugh, David Winstead, Brian Weinstein, George Sexton, Planning, Russ Smith, Zoning, Betsy D'Amico(4:07pm Arrival) and Peter Decker. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectmen, Susan Malan, Consultant and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Ed Cook

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peckinpaugh at 4:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by George Sexton the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the May 9, 2018 minutes as written.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

None

Commissioners:

No additional comment.

REPORT FROM EDC CONSULTANT/SUSAN MALAN

Ms. Malan discussed her report. The Market at 1-3 North Main Street opened June 1st. Reins on 55 Main Street has closed. Olive Oyl's space is still not ready for a new lease. The space which housed Wright's has a potential leaser. EDC information has been added to the Experience Essex website.

Zoning Officer Report

Whole Harmony Tea relocated from Haddam to 17 Industrial Park Road. There was a new application for a restaurant. The Doggy Daycare has been approved. The Board of Trade started a First Thursday event and it was very successful. This will be done through the summer. Parking is a concern of the Ivoryton Alliance for the Farmer's Market held on Saturday's.

ACTION ITEMS

Parking in Essex Village Update

Ms. Peckinpaugh discussed the proposed parking which is proposed as back in only parking. Mr. Winstead noted that contractors are causing the parking issues in Essex. Slant parking will not allow contractors with trailers to park. It was suggested having specific hours which contractors can park. A report done three years ago discussed parking. Ms. D'Amico will research and get the information to the Commission. The Commission agrees that back in only parking may not work. Signage may be able to address contractor parking issues in the village. The Commission agree that having a designated bike lane is beneficial. The merchants, banks and the art gallery are complaining about the parking issues. Parking tickets could be issued.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – Parking and Speaking before the Board of Selectman

June 20th at 7:00pm is the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to discuss parking in the village of Essex. Ms. Peckinpugh asked members to come to the meeting on the 20th to discuss their viewpoints. This discussion will help the merchants. If parking is on one side only it would allow for a bike lane and a clear lane in the winter. An analysis of back in parking should be researched. Ms. Malan feels that there are unfair guidelines for parking. If you do not own parking you can have any number of vehicles, but if you own parking there are guidelines. There is a proposal to have the parking reviewed as a senior project for a UConn student. The crosswalk at the top of Pratt Street needs to be addressed. Commissioners commented that they would like to see a traffic report regarding backing in. Ms. D'Amico feels that slant parking may not benefit the merchants. Mr. Smith would like a bike lane. Mr. Winstead likes the parking as it is. He would like restrictions of big rigs in town. He does not want back in parking. Mr. Sexton agrees with the other comments. Slant parking would allow for additional parking spaces.

Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations

The next meeting July 11, 2018 at 4:00pm at Middle Cove.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk