

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 11, 2021**

Present: Chairman Janet Peckinpaugh, Brian Weinstein, Susan Malan, Robert Day, Tom Nichols and Peter Decker

Absent: Betsy D'Amico

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Brian Weinstein to approve the July 2021 minutes. Robert Day seconded.

INTRODUCTION:

Meeting was held at Deep River Roasters outside on the patio. There was discussion regarding the brewery across the way. They can be open 65 days from 7/15/2021 so that should bring us into September. Maybe we can have the September meeting at the brewery? They will also have food- they have an Italian pizza oven and fryers.

Visitors: None

Updates:

Any updates on the Spa of Essex? We have heard it has been sold and the Spa definitely has closed. The buyer still is not public knowledge. Any update on the Design Studio? There was an article in the Day about her. She is still stuck in Holland due to COVID restrictions. She has paid rent for the building and has also bought a house in Norwich, but she needs to be released in order to come back. Hopefully that will happen soon.

Planning and Zoning Report:

August 2021

Carey did not provide an official report but did send Janet a brief summary:

The majority of zoning permits issued last month were for improvements to residential homes. PZC received two text amendment application- one relating to building height which is a clarification of cupolas and structures exempt from the height restriction (public hearing set for Sept. 7), and the second was for the Route 9 gateway Development District (public hearing Oct. 5). The PZC opened the public hearing for a text amendment to allow horses in the VR district on 3 acres or more and continued the hearing to Sept 7.

The Wetlands Commission accepted an application for a proposal to build two buildings at Bokum Rd (parcel has no #), each one approximately 28,000 square feet in size located in Light Industrial Zone. Discussion on what the buildings would be used for. No one in attendance had any information on this.

We've also received proposals in response to the RFQ for Essex Village to be on the National Register of Historic Places. Hoping to choose a team within the next week.

ACTION ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Janet wanted updates on visiting businesses to gather emails. No one was able to do that last month. Janet said there is no new updates on the sidewalk. Still waiting on Geoff Paul. Ryan said it should happen by the end of October. Discussion on where the sidewalk will be. It will be a continuation of the old sidewalk – it will not match the fancy sidewalk now, but it will continue in that same area. It also won't take anything away from the street. Two to three streetlights are being discussed to match the ones downtown.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 8, 2021. We will figure out a place to meet, possibly Dockside or the brewery if it is open.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Robert Day to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Brian Weinstein seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Sadlowski, Commission Clerk