

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 13, 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 4:00p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion made by Brian Weinstein to approve the August 2021 minutes. Peter Decker seconded.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Meeting was held at Dockside outside on the patio.

**Visitors:** Jim Vineburgh

**Updates:**

Any updates on the brewery. Still waiting on ovens that are still on a ship off the coast of California. They still are hoping to open soon. COVID updates- businesses have put signs up to say that masks are recommended. Update on the Liberty Bank space- it will be a retail space. No other information yet.

**Planning and Zoning Report:**

Janet did not receive the P&Z report from Carey Duques this month. Robert gave the update from the meeting. After months of discussion on changing the residential zoning to have horses on 3 acres of land. Right now, the first 2 horses need 4 acres. This impacts 4 properties. Robert felt this was the right thing to do for best practice management. The Rte. 1 gateway was also discussed. The lots moved into the gateway district have special rules. The majority of things in the gateway plan are good things but it is complex in order to not have large retail chains come into town. Susan asked if that could happen anyway- isn't it supposed to be only 1800 sq. ft? Yes, Robert said that is correct. However, it is gotten expanded a little. The Bombaci property has maybe 2500 sq. ft. There was discussion on how much retail, sq. footage could potentially come into town.

**ACTION ITEMS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Susan said an offer was made to lease the Colonial Market building. Just a start but hopefully something will be going in soon. The building on Pratt St. has been cleaned up a bit- cleaned the gutters, painted and some fixes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Janet has resigned as Board Chair. She is moving to Madison. She says it has been a pleasure working on the board for the past seven years. We do need to vote on a new chairperson. It is not an easy position as it is a hard sell to get people to sit on this board. Not only do you have to show up for the meeting every month, but it is not an attractive commission when it feels as if we don't have any power. It was asked if Norm had a preference for who should be chair. Janet said no, but that Susan Malan said she would step in. Everyone voted for Susan to take over the Chair responsibilities. It was asked if Susan took over, would we need to replace a member? Janet said yes, that is why Jim is sitting in on the meeting today. He is meeting with Norm tomorrow. Janet introduced Jim to everyone and asked him to tell everyone about himself. He has come back to CT after being out of state for quite a few years. He has been in Essex about 2 months. He said he is selective in what he gets involved in and was involved in a few boards out of state. He does not like sitting on the sidelines, he likes to dive in. Janet introduced each member to Jim with a bit about each one.

**Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations:**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Robert Day to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m. Brian Weinstein seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Sadlowski, Commission Clerk