

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

August 9, 2023

Zoom virtual meeting and in-person at 29 West Avenue Essex Room A

Present: Susan Malan (Temporary Chair), Tom Nichols, James Vineburgh, Brian Weinstein, Bob Day, Tom Pinkowish

Absent: Mary Ellen Barnes, Peter Decker

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by Susan Malan at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

James Vineburgh motioned to approve the minutes and Brian Weinstein seconded.

INTRODUCTION:

The meeting was to be held virtually on Zoom but there were technical issues with the Zoom link; in person at 29 West Avenue Essex Room A.

Visitors:

None

Updates:

Planning and Zoning Report:

See “Zoning Report for the Economic Development Commission” below from Carey Duques.

Parking and sidewalks, signage– Centerbrook, Ivoryton, Essex Villages - Carey sent out the signage notice to all three villages. It detailed what businesses should know about signage ordinance, what is allowed and not allowed. The letter also includes a respectful request to not park for more than two hours on Main Street and to use public parking off the street in order to make more space for the retailers.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

PoCD - No updates

Harbor Management Plan - No updates. Still waiting for feedback.

Vacancies and new businesses - Vintage Home has moved in next to Nutmeg Pharmacy in Centerbrook and it is open. 1 Main Street Essex is under contract. The former Nutmeg Pharmacy is still vacant. There is still no update on the former Los Charros restaurant/building. Susan updated former Swanky’s – building was sold and new owners opening a business “Cooked” which will have prepared meals to go, a rotisserie, sandwiches and fresh flowers; doing renovations now, likely to open in the fall.

Short term rental ordinance proposal - attached - Susan says this is just the beginning of the work on this and that there are information sessions being held about this proposal.

Ferry Road and Pratty sidewalk project - Susan said Public Works is moving the project forward with a goal to raise Ferry St about 18 inches to reduce flooding and to make pedestrian infrastructure in the area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Day's P&Z Update – Bob reported and that there was a public hearing about an application to amend zoning to allow multi-family housing via special exception within the rural residential zone. The public hearing was continued to September.

Directional Signage - Susan commented how there aren't sufficient waymaking signs for the three different villages. Susan agreed to talk to UConn about signage to see if this is a project they might consider taking on.

Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bob Day made a motion to adjourn. Brian Weinstein seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elson Guo