

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Essex Town Hall – Essex, CT

January 8, 2020 4:00 pm

In attendance: Janet Peckinpagh, Brian Weinstein, Betsy D’Amico, George Sexton, and Susan Malan.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Janet Peckinpagh at 3:59 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Janet Peckinpagh to approve the December 11 meeting minutes. Betsy D’Amico seconded the motion. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF 2020 CALENDAR

Motion made by Brian Weinstein to approve the 2020 calendar. George Sexton seconded the motion. All in favor.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors: None.

Commissioners: No additional comment.

REPORT FROM EDC CONSULTANT/SUSAN MALAN

No update on the athletic training center that is looking for 4,000 – 6,000 square feet of industrial space with a 25 foot ceiling height. There are currently no spaces available with this scope. A decorator/designer is leasing 8 Main Street in Essex. They have received their zoning permits so they should be opening soon. The Ivoryton Tavern and Café business has been sold to long time employee; the previous owners Jim and Nan Crowell have retired. 11 Main Street in Essex has a new retail store, “You, Me and the Sea,” which is a family owned business that makes jewelry and other items out of sea glass. Black Jax Saloon is open for business. Swanky’s is open for business. The indoor gold center is working through their remaining approvals. The contract on 1 – 3 North Main has closed. Essex Chocolatier is closing. A new economic group in Essex, “Down River,” has been formed with the main focus on attracting tourism in Essex.

Zoning Officer Report

Approved Zoning Permit:

- Application No. 19-140 – New use – Professional Office, Dr. Thomas O’Connor (Testerology), 28 Main Street, Essex (replacing the old Prive Swiss).
- Application No. 19-142 – New Use – Dog Grooming Facility, 90 Pond Meadow Road.
- Application No. 19-143 – Home Business – Flouring Cookie Company, 11 Birch Mill Trail.
- Application No. 19-144 – New Use – Brewery Facility, 6 Main Street, Centerbrook (following amendment to previous Special Exception).
- Application No. 19-149 – New Use – Retail store, “Ingrid Bergman Interiors”, 8 Main Street, Essex.

Special Exception Application:

- Application No. 19-16 – Nick Sapia, 130 Dennison Road, Essex. Application to locate a new 7,000+ square foot office building on a vacant property. Approved December 16th.
- Application No. 19-29 – Matthew Strand, 47 Industrial Park Road, Centerbrook. An application for a special exception to locate an indoor recreation facility within a commercial space. Hearing scheduled for January 27, 2020.

Site Plan Review Application:

- No applications at this time.

Petition for Text Amendments:

- Application no. 19-21 – Essex Zoning Commission – Newly reformatted Zoning Regulations with some additions and deletions. A public hearing is scheduled for February 2020.

News:

- Chris Carlin, 3 Main Street Centerbrook is looking at potentially locating an ice cream shop in a space on the first floor of his building.

ACTION ITEMS:

There was a Zoning Planning meeting January 9 in which the UConn Engineering students attended to discuss their implementation plan for Essex Village.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None.

New Business:

None.

Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations

The next meeting will be on February 12, 2020 at 4:00 pm at Black Jax Saloon, Centerbrook.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Brian to adjourn the meeting at 4:19. George seconded the motion.
All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Tucker, Commission Clerk