**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

**Griswold Inn - Essex, CT**

**May 9, 2018 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chairman Janet Peckinpaugh, David Winstead, Ed Cook, Brian Weinstein, George Sexton, Planning, Russ Smith, Zoning, Betsy D’Amico and Peter Decker. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectmen, Susan Malan, Consultant and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent:

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The March meeting was cancelled so there were no minutes to approve.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Visitors:**

None

**Commissioners:**

No additional comment.

**REPORT FROM EDC CONSULTANT/SUSAN MALAN**

Ms. Malan discussed her report. Essex Olive Oil closed and the space is available to rent. Truffle Shots may be moving. The market will be opening in June at 1-3 North Main. Paint and Sip recently opened. Essex Station is leasing. The space which housed Wright’s has a potential leaser. The Doggy Daycare is still pending. 10 Main has withdrawn their application. Discussion was held regarding the possible housing Hope Partnership may bring to Spencer’s Corner.

No Zoning Report.

A citizen suggested that mentors mentor new business. This effort would be a duplication of something already available.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Change in Course. New Plan for Parking in Essex**

Slant parking in the Village of Essex was discussed. Changing parking may be a benefit for our town and help businesses. A study is suggested that there is room to have slant parking on one side and this would also allow for a bike lane on the other. Angled parking would be on the right side. Having kiosks available for payment of parking was discussed. This would encourage people to look for free public parking spaces. Mr. Decker likes the idea but feels that paid parking is not necessary. Slant parking would not create additional parking but we would also not lose any spaces. Resident parking stickers could be issued. Working with the UConn Urban Planning department may be beneficial. A traffic study may need to be done. Clearing snow during winter storms will be better. Pratt Street may also consider this option. This will need to go before the Traffic Authority. If Pratt Street has the available space, this type of change should also be done there. The crosswalk at the end of Pratt needs to be changed for better viewing. This may have to go to a Public Hearing or Town Meeting for approval.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS – How to Proceed with Parking Plan**

Ms. Peckinpaugh suggested creating a subcommittee to work with Planning, the Traffic Authority and the Board of Selectmen.

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by George Sexton, the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to accept the parking proposal as presented.

Mr. Needleman arrived at 4:53pm. Discussion with the Traffic Authority will be the first step.

**Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations**

The next meeting June 13, 2018 at 4:00pm at Abby’s.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:06p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk