

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING via Zoom**  
**May 13, 2020**

**Present:** Chairman Janet Peckinpaugh, Brian Weinstein, Peter Decker, George Sexton, and Susan Malan.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peckinpaugh at 4:02 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Peter Decker to approve the March meeting minutes. Brian Weinstein seconded the motion. All in favor.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Visitors:** Elizabeth Reinhart

**Commissioners:** No additional comment.

**REPORT FROM EDC CONSULTANT/SUSAN MALAN- April/May**

- COVID 19 lockdown in place until May 20 for most companies. The Town formed a “Reopen Advisory Committee” which meets twice a week. The Town will distribute guidelines and uniform signage for each company in the industries re-opening on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 35 Main Street Essex – re-leased
- 15 Main Street, former Berkshire Hathaway offices re-leased
- Town Soup moving out of 13 Main Street
- Not sure if/when this is opening - Decorator/designer is leasing 8 Main Street Essex. Has received zoning permit
- 53-55 Main Street – work ongoing; trees removed, building leveled, stairway work pending
- Indoor golf center approved – build out in process – no update
- Zoning Enforcement officer – see report

**Attended:** General meeting of the Essex Board of Trade; Essex, Board Meeting of Essex Board of Trade, Deep River, Chester MCCC meeting. Attended Reopen Advisory Committee meetings

**REPORT FROM ZONING OFFICER JOE BUDROW – May**

- Application No. 29-39 – 17 Industrial Park Road: New Use: 1-800 Water Damage
- Application No. 20-42 – 9 Ferry Street: New Use: Concrete accessway from 53 Main Street to Carlson’s Landing
- Application No. 20-46 – 90 Main Street, CTBK: Hope Partnership: Convert commercial space to affordable apartments.
- Application No. 20-54 – 35 Main Street, SX: New Use: Molina Healthcare (offices)
- Application No. 20-55 – 6 Main Street, CTBK: New Use: Sapphire Aesthetics (moved from 3A Main St, CTBK)

News: Essex Marine Group established an inland marine use at a property on Industrial Park Road (Bldg 10). Soon will be going to the Zoning Commission for a Special Exception. Most likely in June.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

None.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS –**

- There was discussion about the upcoming May 20<sup>th</sup> re-open date and restaurants in Town that have been working on configurations for outdoor seating within the guidelines. Businesses in town have been thinking outside the box, helping each other, and doing their best to survive and they need continued community support to make it. Susan Malan is on the Re-open Essex Advisory Committee and will be distributing signage for businesses to post so that the safety requirements are consistent and clear for the business owners and the customers.
- The promotional video for the Town was talked about. The committee is not sure where they stand on that. It was tabled at an earlier date due to the winter weather. Now that the weather is getting nicer and things greening up it might be a good time to get the video project in motion. There was further discussion on having a voiceover on the video which would make it easier to change and update in the future while keeping the background shots. The commission agreed this would also make for a better presentation than individuals speaking onsite. 60-90 second spots could be put on the internet promoting that we are here and open. Janet will take this up at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
- The UCONN project was cancelled. The group did a final video project but Janet has not received it yet. There are no plans to work with another group of students and it's unclear whether there will be non-virtual classes held in the fall. A couple of good things that the town could implement from the student's project were discussed. One is the sidewalk along Ferry St. Jane will bring this up at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

### **New Business:**

None.

### **Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations**

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Brian Weinstein to adjourn the meeting at 4:55. George Sexton seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy D'Amico, Substitute Commission Clerk