

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

June 8, 2022

Zoom virtual meeting and in person at Essex Town Hall

Present: Chairman Susan Malan, Robert Day, Jim Vineburgh, Tom Nichols, Brian Weinstein, Mary Ellen Barnes and Peter Decker.

Absent: Tom Pinkowish

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Malan at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There are no minutes to approve as May's EDC Meeting was cancelled.

INTRODUCTION:

Meeting was held virtually on Zoom and in person at the Essex Town Hall.

Visitors: None

Updates:

Cannabis subcommittee based on report proposed 3 options- prohibition, just medicinal or medicinal and recreation. P&Z discussion at July meeting. Moratorium in place until December 31, 2022. Anyone can attend P&Z meetings, but there will be a meeting on it. There was some discussion on this.

Regional Housing plan- Essex BOS approved Essex Affordable Housing plan June 2022. Robert talked about what was discussed a little more.

Harbor management plan- did submit to DEEP still tweaking a little. A few more changes, a few things that need to be strengthened

Inventories- where docks, what they look like- others think that outside of our purview. So went back to the plan and yes, we should look at the inventory.

No update on River Rd sidewalk project. Money for sidewalk, no money for bridge yet.

Ferry St sidewalk update- none right now. Some discussion on this. Jeff is supposed to be doing something with it but not sure what.

Planning and Zoning Report:

The following applications relating to businesses have seen activity since the last submission to the Essex EDC:

107 Main St. Ivoryton- Blue Hound- Zoning Permit outdoor seating- post Covid compliance permit-this was approved as well as Scotch Plains.

Application for Dry Barber- moved from Centerbrook over to 45 Plains Rd.- separate applications- met requirements

6 Ferry St- where antique store was- architect now- retail to office.

Public hearing 12 Plains Rd- public hearing space next to Mail Mart- dog groomer- probably not going to happen- fairly certain that septic system needs improvement.

Mail mart was sold- looks fantastic- really great!

P&Z application for text change- waste collection storage facility- Robert explained reasoning for change.

ACTION ITEMS:

Parking letter- looks good. We can send it out- did it now go out already? Susan will look it over. Maybe a typo?

OLD BUSINESS:

POCD- Susan keeping this on the agenda- so people start going though it- several sections on there that the EDC is involved with.

Across street from Po's- sold a few months ago. Po's not sold yet-still empty. 2 Main- owners talked about expand the septic- only can be office or retail.

1-3 N. Main & 3 Pratt- took trees down- 3 Pratt commercial on first floor and residential on 2nd floor- makes sense.

Former Liberty Bank- heard open in September but if you have been by there it is completely torn apart. Not sure if it will be open by then.

Foot of Main getting really congested- boat/trailer taking up 4 spaces at one point, public launch getting tricky. Not supposed to stay there just put in boat and leave the area. Discussion on where to go for putting in the boat and parking.- alternative launch next to Dauntless Marina. Maybe can get a sign up to direct them to the other launch to help with congestion.

New stop sign in Ivoryton- so glad it is there- not uncovered yet. Crosswalk there- makes complete sense to have the stop sign.

Public Works doing path connecting Crosslots and Sunset pond? Create full path around. Did not go through Park and Rec yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Upcoming Guests and Meeting Locations:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

Peter adjourned and Robert seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Sadlowski, Commission Clerk