

WATERFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

July 8, 2021
Louise Appleby Room
5:00 PM

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2021 JUL 15 AM 10:11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman -Dan Radin, Eric Palmer, Edward Lusher, Jill Szymanski
MEMBERS ABSENT: Vacancy
ALTERNATES PRESENT: Greg Attanasio
ALTERNATES ABSENT: Vacancy
STAFF PRESENT: Abby Piersall, AICP, Director of Planning, Mark Wujtewicz, Planner

1. **CALL TO ORDER/APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES**

A quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 10, 2021 meeting**

MOTION: Motion made by E. Lusher, seconded by J. Szymanski to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting.

VOTE: 5-0 to approve the minutes.

3. **COMMISSION PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES:**

EDC Charter Discussion

D. Radin reviewed the enabling legislation in the State Statutes that authorizes municipalities to establish Economic Development Commissions. He noted that the language in the statutes describing the purpose of an Economic Development Commission was similar to that in the Town Charter. He suggested that the EDC adopt the language in the Statute as the Charter for the EDC.

MOTION: Motion by D. Radin and seconded by E. Lusher to adopt the language contained in the State Statute Section 7-136 as the Waterford EDC Charter.

VOTE: 5-0

EDC Work Items

D. Radin reviewed a list of items for consideration by the members of the Commission regarding various projects that the Commission can undertake. He stated that through a review of the various projects and assigning roles of responsibility to each of the members based upon their strengths of skill set they possess, gaps of expertise can also be identified. The identification of those gaps can be used to promote new membership criteria.

He also stated that the EDC website has been updated.

A. Piersall reviewed the budget and available funding with the Commission. She described the role that SeCTer plays within the region and what benefits Waterford derives from its membership with SeCTer. She also gave a brief description of the Advance CT Town Profile data sheet that is produced in conjunction with the CT DECD. She stated that Advance CT is looking for the towns in CT to provide a list of the top 5 businesses in Town for listing in the Town Profile. After some discussion it was the consensus of the Commission that the list should include businesses that represent various sectors within the business and cultural community.

MOTION: Motion made by E Lusher and seconded by E. Palmer to provide Advance CT with the following list of what the EDC considers the top five businesses in Waterford:

Dominion Energy (Energy), Sonalyst (Tech), Eugene O'Neill Theater Center (Culture), Defender Industries (Sales) and Seconn Sheet Metal Fabrication (Manufacturing).

VOTE: 5-0

D. Radin stated that with the new state legislation recently enacted regarding the sale of Cannabis and products containing Cannabis, that the EDC should take look at what steps it can take to promote new business. A. Piersall stated that there is specific language within the new legislation the guides Planning and Zoning Commissions in enacting Zoning Regulations regarding the sale and cultivation of cannabis and cannabis based products. It was agreed that this item will be tabled and reviewed with the Commission at a special meeting. The date and time to be determined.

A. Piersall reviewed the status of the two Waterford Business Grant Programs previously discussed with the Commission. She stated that of the two programs, she felt it would be best to initiate the Waterford MicroGrants Program first, since the Town is in the process of hiring a new Tax Assessor. The Assessor plays a critical role in the Small Business Grants Program. She stated that she will be developing an application form for the MicroGrant Program. G. Attanasio stated that would assist in developing the application form with Abby.

4. TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND PERMITTING STATUS

M. Wujtecwicz reviewed ongoing projects with the Commission

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS

A. Piersall stated that the Commission has received a bill for the membership to the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION: Motion made by EW. Lusher, seconded by D. Radin to pay the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce Membership fee.

VOTE: 5-0

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. OTHER BUSINESS

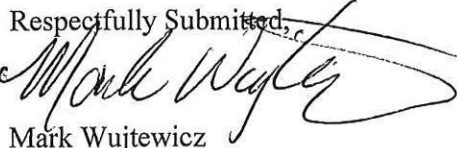
None

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by D. Radin, seconded by E. Lusher to adjourn at 6:15 PM.

VOTE: 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,


Mark Wujtecwicz
Planner