



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Somers Town Hall – Lower Level

1. Call to Order @ 7:01 pm. Economic Development Commission (EDC) Members present: Vicki Clark, Dave Marti, James O’Hearn, Pam Belisle and Beth Frechette. No guests were in attendance.
2. Minutes:
 - a. Dave Marti made a motion to accept the May minutes as they were submitted, James O’Hearn seconded, motion approved by membership.
 - b. Dave Marti made a motion to accept the June minutes as they were submitted, James O’Hearn seconded, motion approved by membership.
3. Correspondence:
 - a. Booster Club looking to partner with businesses for their upcoming golf tournament. We will place a link on our Facebook page to support.
 - b. Somers Scarecrow Contest to partner with businesses on their upcoming community event. We will place a link on our Facebook page to support.
4. Old Business:
 - a. 2019 Business Directory Progress Report
 - i. A recommendation was made to hire a coordinator to complete and publish the directory. A motion was made to offer the position to audit current contents, organize, facilitate and coordinate the printing of the directory as a project for the EDC based on performance standards set by the commission. Dave Marti made the motion to move it forward, seconded by Beth Frechette. The committee approved.
 - ii. Dave and Vicki will work on the project business plan and for discussion at the October meeting to be discussed.
 - b. Events (All future events will continue to be advertised on our Facebook page.)
 - i. Story Barn ribbon cutting was sponsored by EDC and was a great success for this new business over the summer.
 - ii. Body Reflections would like to partner with the EDC to sponsor a business after-hours Open House. Pam will speak with her to discuss a November date.
 - iii. DG Graphics would like to sponsor a business open house later this year.
 - iv. Watching to possible project at Worthington Pond – would make a great destination business in town.
 - c. Social Media Status Report
 - i. We are continuing to gather information on social media and how best to use it for the commission.
 - ii. We will post our upcoming event as well as other Somers business events.
 - d. EDC Marketing Materials

- i. Hold on the brochure until the full membership and officers of the EDC are determined.
 - ii. The EDC members discussed different methods of communicating the business opportunities in Somers, CT, including YouTube, Public Television, Instagram, etc.
- e. Strategic Town Development Updates
 - i. Mill Site – No action for our commission.
 - ii. Hillsdale College – No updates and no action for our commission.
 - iii. Henny Penny - No action for our commission, demolition underway.
 - iv. Copper Hill Farm, owned by Greg Hazleton is requesting permission from the town to host an event on his location on November 2. EDC to reach out to see if we can help.
- f. Review of 2019-2020 program projects
 - i. First Somers Business Forum event has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 2 to be held at Joanna's with Beth Frechette, Discover Solutions speaking on Executive Presence/Public Speaking.
 - ii. Opiate programming event to be researched by Dave Marti which could be a partnership with the Somers Rotary. Potential dates were discussed.
- g. Zoning Regulations
 - i. Final rewrite will be discussed with Zoning on September 23. Once there are no additional changes, it will be presented to the community for public hearing. No action for our commission.

5. New Business

- a. Somers Business Forum - Somers Business Forum would refer to the individuals who participate and regularly attend the EDC events. Future meetings will continue to define this EDC sub-group.
- b. Officer Election Discussion – The slate of officers for 2019-2020 was approved by the EDC after nominations were made by James O’Hearn, seconded by Pam Belisle. The officers will be Vicki Clark as Chairperson, Dave Marti as Vice-Chairperson and Beth Frechette as Secretary.
- c. Somers Business Property Showcase – Postings of open Somers business/opportunities/locations will be showcased on the EDC Facebook page with further details to be discussed at next month’s meeting.
- d. Next month’s meeting will be held on Monday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Somers Town Hall.

6. Adjournment 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted for the Commission,

Beth Frechette, Secretary