

## **Andover**

### **Economic Development Commission**

#### **Zoom Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 7:00PM**

- I. Call to order: Elaine called the meeting to order at 7:05. Attending: Elaine Buchardt, Cathy Palazzi, Lori Blake, Catherine Magaldi-Lewis. Absent: Patrick Dougherty
- II. Public Speak - none
- III. Add/Delete – added discussion of educational institution student involvement in municipal projects.
- IV. Minutes from last meeting: Cathy made a motion to accept, Catherine 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved
- V. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce report: Elaine attended a TCCC EDC meeting with several Tolland County towns represented. The TCCC will be creating a fundraiser that will be a Tag Sale Trail. Businesses and individuals can pay a fee to be put on the map to sell their wares. Crafters are welcome, businesses can get their site on the trail and do tag sale items or possible discounts for people on the trail. This will take place April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.

The Bolton representative mentioned that Josh Kelly, their town administrator, has been keeping in touch with all the town commissions and committees for communication links. Sandy Perog, their first selectman, will be have a joint zoom meeting for all Bolton groups to share information. Elaine, as a CVC rep, mentioned that Josh Kelly films a Bolton Town Administrator show on CVC twice a month and Lori Spielman, the Ellington First Selectman, films a monthly show on CVC that highlights things going on in town and businesses. Elaine has been working with Eric Anderson to try to get him to film a monthly update. Covid has interfered with that process, but she will start working on that again. Eric can film right at the town hall since we now have our own camera and can send the segments to CVC.

Bolton is working on their 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary one year late. The Bolton Drive-in is now for sale and they are hoping for a new neighborhood.

Elaine mentioned that she has 162 acres on the market in Andover and we are looking for a development. The town is open to suggestions. She sent the information to an attorney who is on the committee who represents developers.

Farmers Market – Elaine – nothing new to report. Meeting postponed to Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tourism Board – Patrick – no work on this.

Planning and Zoning – Patrick. Patrick used to be on the P&Z and we had a direct link to them through him. We are hoping Patrick will continue to keep informed of what

the P&Z is doing in regards to businesses. Since Patrick has not been attending our meetings, we may need to get another liaison to keep track of P&Z things. Catherine suggested talking to a member of P&Z to see if they will be able to report to us.

## VI. Social media communication

Who is doing what? – Lori sent me information for Dance Hub and Over and Over. Cathy sent me pictures for Tom's Place. Andover Landscaping weren't sure about posting anything for their winter activities. They will definitely want things on Facebook during the planting season. Catherine wasn't impressed with the MiniMart or the Andover Liquor store so she didn't write anything to promote them.

Elaine is continuing to monitor the Andover Community Network Facebook page to plug local businesses when someone asks if we know of anyone that does(fill in the blank). She has recommended Hurst Farm for raw honey. She called Jim Gorman to see if he is still in the flooring business to see if she can recommend him. She has promoted MyTech for plumbing and heating. Elaine also wrote on the Andover CT Economic Development page to business to follow the Andover Community Network page to promote their businesses when they see someone asking for their services.

Catherine will look into making more connections with other town EDC pages to ours. We need to boost followers. Others on the EDC can share the page to their friends asking for them to like the page.

Lori will talk to Paula King to see if there is any way to connect the Andover Community Network page and the Andover Economic Development page.

Andover is Open for business- assignments. Elaine has been posting links to websites for local businesses.

## VII. Projects:

Educational opportunities for local students to work on municipal projects. Catherine pointed out the Somerville, MA, project in 2015 where Harvard Students got involved in the municipality for a school project to help with Economic Development. She also got information about who to contact at UCONN to see if Andover projects can be used as a UCONN student project. She will send an email to them.

Sustainable Connecticut – meeting January 25<sup>th</sup>: The Sustainable CT kick off meeting is 7PM on Monday night. Cathy is the chairman and there are representatives from the EDC (Elaine and Patrick), the library, the Farmer's Market and the conservation commission who will be on the new committee. Cathy sent us all the information for the meeting. We need to look at the action items that are specific to the EDC to work on.

Local Business Survey: Lori and Catherine are working on the questions for the survey to businesses that we will review for our next meeting.

Welcome signs: the Community Fund group has determined how they are going to ask for community projects looking for funding. They will be reaching out for the applications soon, probably through the News Bulletin. Elaine will keep an eye out for it to put in a request for Welcome Sign funding.

Branding – no discussion this meeting

VIII. More ideas

IX. Assignments: Elaine to put in request for funding for signs to the Community Fund group and is on Sustainable CT. She will also send the request again to CIP. Cathy to run Sustainable CT committee. Lori and Catherine to finish up the survey and send to group for input at our next meeting. Patrick to check with P&Z to find out what is currently being discussed that would affect businesses in town. He is also on Sustainable CT.

X. Public Speak

XI. Adjournment at 7:58PM Next meeting is Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 7PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Buchardt