

Andover Economic Development Commission

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday October 20th, 2022 5:30PM

- I. Call to order 5:32 Elaine Buchardt, Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Cathy Palazzi. Missing: Patrick Dougherty:
- II. Public Speak
- III. Add/Delete –
Annual report – Elaine sent the annual report for the EDC to the town administrator's admin. Elaine sent copies to the group.
- IV. Minutes from last meeting – September 20th – Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes, Catherine 2nd. All in favor
- V. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce report - Elaine talked about the networking event at Over AndOver on Route 6. The TCCC holds networking events at businesses that are members across the county. Great way for other members to get to know each other.

New website with Town calendars – keep sending information for events to Missy Smith

Other towns events and initiatives – lots of local fall events going on in area towns.

Farmers Market – Elaine – the last Farmers Market on Oct 5th was poorly attended. The weather was predicting rain, but the Andover Congregational Church had it's pumpkin patch sale going on. There was hopes of synergy between the two events, but it didn't turn out that way. It did start raining at 6:30 so we packed up early. Having a market until 7PM in October is maybe too late since it gets dark earlier. The last 2022 market is Saturday, Nov. 5th from 11-2.

- VI. Social media communication - Who is doing what?

Andover is Open for business – Elaine continues to share local businesses on the EDC Facebook page as they promote themselves.

- VII. Projects:

Board communications – All – We will set up a combined meeting with P&Z, Inland Wetlands, Conservation and Town Administrator to discuss developments proposed in town.

Business Directory/Business mapping(ongoing) – Elaine continues to update as she hears of new businesses.

Sustainable Connecticut – Cathy, Elaine- Cathy is waiting for information from SustainableCT to find out what has changed now that they have added a Gold level certification. She needs to know how much of the initiatives we have already reported on can be used for 2023 certification. In the meantime the Andover groups involved are continuing to work on several projects that can be considered in the future for certification. Cathy has reported on the Complete Streets Project finishing

of the parking hub at the juncture of the Hop River Rail Trail and Center St. The sidewalks and crossing markings near the library and church have been completed.

UConn student planning presentation – Catherine – On Oct 19th, the UConn class of Landscape Architects presented the development plans they have worked on for Andover. There were 13 presentations all focusing on development of town owned land. They included affordable housing, playscapes and entertainment and recreation al spaces. They were community centric. We will look over the plans that they came up with and hone in on four or five favorites. We will discuss with P&Z and the town administrator to get their input. Ultimately, we would like to present the ideas to the Board of Selectmen. We discussed sending a thankyou package of things from Hurst Farms to thank them for their work. There was a CRCOG(Capital Region Council of Governments) representative, Elizabeth Sanderson, at the presentation. We had a discussion after the meeting with her because she was looking for ideas of how CRCOG can help.

Welcome signs –Elaine and Patrick – There have been some conversations with other people who think we should have Welcome signs at the borders on Route 6, but that it would be nice to have a “gateway” sign at the Andover Dog Pound location at the end of Shoddy Mill. Possibly something on the stone wall of the pound or on the stone wall at the corner with the library. We are gathering ideas at this time.

Businesses coming to town – Elaine ran into a woman starting a new horse boarding business that is starting up at 332 Hebron Rd. Elaine gave her a card with phone number and email so she can get information to be added to the directory and the map.

IX. Branding –More ideas – the towns of Coventry, Bolton, Mansfield and Tolland are working on regional brand.

X. Assignments – Cathy to keep working with Sustainable CT.

Catherine to look into creating a thankyou basket for the UConn students from Hurst Farm.

Elaine will continue promoting businesses with Facebook and directory. She continues to monitor the EDC email accounts. Elaine continues to attend the TCCC EDC and Board of Directors meetings.

Elaine will send the UConn presentations to the group for us to study and discuss our favorites at our next meeting.

Catherine to set up a meeting of the boards and town administrator after the election to discuss the plans and see what other developments are happening in town.

Elaine and Patrick to work on new ideas for Welcome to Andover signs.

Everyone keep sending town events to Missy Smith at TCCC or the town calendar she is keeping up.

XI. Public Speak

XII. Adjournment – Next meeting November 17th 2022 5:30PM