

## **Andover Economic Development Commission**

### **Zoom Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 5:30PM**

- I. Call to order: 5:31PM Elaine Buchardt, Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Cathy Palazzi  
Absent: Patrick Dougherty
- II. Public Speak
- III. Add/Delete – Discussion about EDC getting involved with P&Z POCD creation – Jed Larson, Chairman of the P&Z is looking for our input for the new POCD that is due in 2023. Specifically, he wants us to work on Chapter 9 of the Current POCD, Promoting and Regulating Commercial Development. Elaine will tell Jed we will be involved. She will find out what meetings they are discussing the POCD in and what the deadline is. Catherine and Elaine to work on writing down our suggestions for Chapter 9.  
  
Gift Basket for students – Catherine is getting a gift basket for the students who did their presentations from Hurst Farms. We will be looking to the Town Administrator to reimburse her since it is a thank gift from the town. Elaine will call him since he hasn't responded to emails. We discussed bumping up the EDC budget from \$500 to \$1000 next year so we have some discretionary funds for gifts, ribbon cutting, CCM courses, etc.  
  
Annual report – already turned in
- IV. Minutes from last meeting – October 2022. Cathy made motion to approve, Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
All approved
- V. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce report - Elaine talked about the TCCC annual meeting where Over AndOver Barntique was awarded the Corporate Citizen Award for Wendy Kopp's give back to the community and charities. She sponsors a lot of community fund raising efforts in her store. Wendy gives a portion of proceeds for furniture rehabs to the donator's choice of charity.  
  
New website with Town calendars – Elaine reminded Catherine and Cathy to get any upcoming community events to Missy Smith, director of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, to go on the town of Andover calendar on the TCCC website. This way we are promoting events on the county lever, not just Andover.  
  
Other towns events and initiatives – Lots of holiday craft fairs going on it the Tolland County towns. TCCC promotes them on their Facebook page.  
  
Farmers Market – Elaine – The last market of the year was a beautiful warm sunny Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>. The AFM committee will be regrouping in 2023 to decide what the markets will look like going forth.

VI. Social media communication - Who is doing what?

Andover is Open for business – Elaine has promoted local businesses by sharing their posts on the Andover Economic Development Committee Facebook page. Specifically, Four Winds Farm, Tom's Place and Over AndOver Barntique.

VII. Projects:

Board communications – All - combined meeting with P&Z and Town Administrator- Catherine to try to get a combined meeting for December to include EDC, P&Z, Conservation and the Town Administrator

Business Directory/Business mapping(ongoing) – Elaine – to add Dollar General.

Sustainable Connecticut – Cathy, Elaine – The Complete Streets worksheet is completed, the energy action work sheet is completed. Cathy is looking for some more information on the lake events from Mike Burke and some library items from Sharon. Amy March is helping review the 1.0 and 1.1 items listed for Andover. Item 13 which was optional (housing) has been completed for Andover. Cathy will touch base with Catherine about the UCONN connection activities to create a worksheet for those efforts for Sustainable CT. We still need to have someone on the Board of Selectmen to participate in some of the Sustainable CT workshops and training to realistically get any kind of certification. Jeff McGuire who had initially signed up hasn't participated.

UCONN student planning presentation – discuss the plans presented

Catherine wrote up her take aways from the presentations. Elaine talked about her favorite plans and the aspects that were particularly interesting. Cathy agreed that Geneva Scott's plans could possibly be worked on and liked some aspects of other plans. Elaine will write up the specific parts of the plans she would like to see worked on. We need to get our insights over to P&Z and the BOS.

Welcome signs –Elaine and Patrick – Elaine suggested that we can concentrate on the stone retaining wall at the corner of Long Hill and Route 6 by the library to put some kind of Welcome to Andover message. Whether it is large letters or a mural needs to be looked into. She thinks we should still have Welcome to Andover and Thanks for visiting signs at the Columbia and Coventry border.

Businesses coming to town – Only new business in the last few months that Elaine heard about is a horse boarding business on 332 Hebron Rd. She is trying to get specific information to put it on the directory and map. Elaine needs to add the Dollar General that has opened on the directory and map.

IX. Branding –More ideas - Since the covered bridge is the only cover bridge over dry land in the country we should use the covered bridge in our branding.

X. Assignments :Elaine to communicate with Jed Larson to say EDC wants to be involved in the POCD for next year. She will attend the meetings where they work on it. Elaine to write up ideas we want incorporated in Chapter 9 of the Current POCD, Promoting and Regulating Commercial Development.

Elaine to write up the particular pieces of the UCONN plans that we think the town should look into.

Elaine to call Town Administrator concerning reimbursement for a gift basket for the UCONN students. Catherine to have the basket made up at Hurst Farm.

Elaine and Catherine to look into ideas for the retaining wall at the corner of Long Hill Rd and Route 6 for a Welcome to Andover sign.

Cathy and Catherine to discuss the UCONN involvement with planning and possible future collaborations to be added into Sustainable CT efforts.

Elaine to add Dollar General to the directory and map.

Catherine to set up our next combined committee meeting to discuss town projects and possible new businesses. She'll shoot for December, but could be January.

XI. Public Speak

XII. Adjournment – at 6:35PM

XIII. Next meetings – The third Thursday of the month at 5:30 in 2023. January would be January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30.