

Andover Economic Development Commission

Zoom Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday April 27th, 2021 6:30

- I. Call to order: Elaine called the meeting to order at 6:36. Attending were Cathy Palazzi and Patrick Dougherty. Absent were Catherine Magaldi-Lewis and Lori Blake.
- II. Public Speak - none
- III. Add/Delete – Elaine added the NE CT Tourism Board meeting and NE CT Tourism Guide for 2021.
- IV. Minutes from last meeting – Cathy motioned to approve, Patrick 2nd. All approved.
- V. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce report - Elaine – TCCC had a zoom meeting with some legislators. We discussed different bills in the works for businesses.

Farmers Market – Elaine – the first market is 4-7 at the First Congregational Church on May 5th.

Tourism Board –Patrick – Patrick will send an email from the CT tourism board about some zoom classes they are offering to help restaurants get grants to get back on their feet after being impacted by the pandemic.

Still want to be on EDC July 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2023? –Elaine, Cathy, Catherine and Patrick said yes. Lori will not be signing up for another term. The RHAM BOE turned out to be way more hours than she realized. We now need to find another member. Elaine will advertise on Facebook and the News Bulliten.

NE CT Tourism Board: There is a zoom meeting with the NE CT Tourism Board on Thursday at 2:00. Elaine attended the last one and made sure at least Andover Pizza made in it in the 2021 visitors guide. That and Over andOver are in the guide for Andover. A visitors guide gets put out each year and they are now communicating with us to get our input. They got a grant to create some tourism videos which will be discussing at the next meeting. Elaine will send info to the EDC incase anyone else can make the meeting. Elaine sent the 2021 NE CT visitor guide to all to look at.

- VI. Social media communication - Who is doing what? – Elaine continues to share any Andover business information as well as information from the state and other chambers that effect local businesses on the Andover CT Economic Development Facebook page.

She labels with Andover is Open for business as appropriate.

VII. Projects:

Sustainable Connecticut – Cathy, Elaine, Patrick – Cathy had a Sustainable CT meeting where Elaine shared information she heard from a CT Green Bank webinar. See the minutes from that meeting to see what was discussed. Cathy is working on the toolkit to use toward certification.

Elaine expressed her frustration with the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance for not adding a planner to the municipal staff. It was proposed initially for this years budget to add the position, but it didn't make the final cut. All the other towns that have accomplished several Sustainable CT projects and environmental conservation and equity projects have planners whose job it is to make sure grants get applied for and projects move forward. They all had committees either appointed or voluntarily formed to work on each initiative, but there was a staff member and money to back them up. We have a Plan of Conservation and Development as well as a Long Term Planning Committee Report for future efforts, but no one is on staff to support it. Our EDC is not supported.

Local Business Survey – finish up – all approved the survey draft that Lori submitted. Catherine and Lori need to get the survey to Amanda to determine how we are distributing to local businesses.

Welcome signs – Sent to community fund group.

Branding – Cows, Bike, Adirondack chairs, snow men, etc? small signs? – to be worked on at a later time.

VIII. More ideas - Catherine's letter to the CT governor, UCONN connection? – to be discussed at our next meeting.

The EDC needs to push for a planner to be added to the town hall staff. Someone with some planning experience for this town to succeed.

IX. Assignments – Catherine and Lori need to work with Amanda to get the survey out to the local businesses.

X. Public Speak - none

XI. Adjournment at 7:09PM Next meeting May 20th 7:00PM Zoom meeting

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Buchardt