

Town of Guilford
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 6, 2018
5:00 PM
Guilford Town Hall-First Selectman's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

Please note: Minutes are not final until approved at subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Mr. Robert Cuzzo, Ms. Wendy Dockray, Mr. David Egan,
Mr. Fran Paranto, Mr. Theodore Sands, Vice-Chair
and Mr. Mark Wasserman, Chair.

Absent: Mr. Damian Gunningsmith, Mr. Michael Orce and Mr. Michael Meisel.

Others: Ms. Sheri Cote, Chamber of Commerce Liaison.

Town Staff: Mr. Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator.
Ms. Katherine DeBurra, Recording Secretary.

Mr. Wasserman called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

1. Communications & Public Forum (Limited to 5 minutes).

Mr. Wasserman read a letter of resignation from Mr. Michael DeMeo. Mr. DeMeo is relocating and thanked the Commission for the wonderful experience and wished everyone the best on the work of the EDC Commission in the future. Mr. Wasserman thanked Mr. DeMeo for his service.

2. Approval of the February 6, 2018 minutes.

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Sands and seconded by Mr. Paranto the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, February 6, 2018 with the following correction: Mr. McGlone asked that the spelling of "Armone's" be adjusted to Amarone (correct spelling) in his report.

In favor: Cuzzo, Dockray, Egan, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

3. Economic Development Coordinator's Report. (Brian) (Inserted)

Mr. McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator reviewed his report as submitted to the Commission in email. (Inserted)

Key comments for the month:

Business Update –

- **House of Fashion** – moved from Whitfield Street location to the rear building. Technically, 23 Water Street, in plaza with ECHO Salon, Hen & Heifer, Country Grocer and now the House of Fashion. Move supported their growing business and created their “house” like layout, with a large main room and several smaller rooms for sale of specialty items.
- **Barnum Financial** - celebrated grand opening of their new location (800 Boston Post Road – Patriot Center) with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting (2/26). They had been in the Gatehouse West Plaza for 12 years but wanted to get more into the center of town.
- **Former Splash location** (restaurant) was approved at P & Z to become the Central Hospital for Veterinary Medicine. As I understand it, this will primarily be an “emergency center” for animals.
- **Had a meeting with YNHH Facility officials**, in collaboration with local developers – discussing future facility needs in Guilford. Introduced possible office space at 350 Goose Lane and future office space at the Arrow Paving site. They are evaluating redevelopment options for the “old” home/former restaurant on their site. And, they indicated they need additional parking spaces at their Goose Lane facility with limited options for expansion (2nd level construction?).
- **Also met with Guilford Yacht Club members**, in collaboration with local developers – reviewing potential redevelopment to occur at the Arrow Paving and Navtec/Lewmar sites. Overall, GYC very encouraged by preliminary plans and hope to work together promoting the Yacht Club, Tennis facility and Pool facility as amenities to prospective tenants. The GYC was successful at P & Z, getting the Zoning change to allow for restaurants in the MR 1 Zone.
- **Defibtech** – as a follow up to our Guilford office visit, Matt Hoey and I visited their Branford Manufacturing / Warehousing location. When they were making their move from Seymour CT, they looked at Guilford but we didn't have an appropriate space. And, many people transferred from Seymour so Branford was a few miles shorter for the commute. They have gone from about 25 people to 40 people in Branford over the past 12 months.

Projects:

- **Parking Update, St George Church** – Town revised Understanding Agreements following meeting with Fr. Stephen. Next step is to review with the Property Owners to see if they will agree to conditions and have their employees use accordingly. I will work with Ted to conduct visits with the Property Owners.

- **Guilford Rotary** – I presented to group during their normal weekly schedule, providing an update as to economic development activity occurring throughout the town. Approximately 40-50 people in attendance, mostly small business owners. Good interest and questions.
- **Hartford Boat Show** – in support of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, I worked the booth for about 4 hours. Our focus was in creating more awareness of our areas in the interest of bringing more tourists to support our restaurants, businesses, and all that we have to offer.

He added that the U-Haul Project will go back to Planning & Zoning on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. Their second presentation will follow at the next Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Discussion.

4. Chamber of Commerce Report. (Ms. Sheri Cote) (Inserted)

Ms. Cote reviewed her report to the Commission. She distributed a flyer for *Connecticut Business Day* and invited Members of the Commission to attend. (Flyer will be submitted and clerked with the minutes.)

Last month's activities:

Business After Hours @Guilford Mooring with Primary Residential Mortgage 2-27.
 Net 90 @ Guilford Mooring 2-15.
 SCYPE @ Donovan's Reef 2-15.
 Women's Luncheon with Success Genie - @ Consign and Design 2-21.
 Ribbon Cutting – Barnum Financial Group – Guilford 2-26.

Upcoming Activities:

Business Breakfast - 'Moving CT Forward' The Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth's Vice Chair Pat Widlitz will be our speaker 3-29 @ La Luna.
 Business after Hours at USS Chowder Pot on 3-27.
 Women In Business Peer to Peer Networking on 3-8.
 Non Profit Executive Director Roundtable 3-8 @ Elis.
 Connecticut Business Day on 3-14 in Harford. (Flyer distributed.)

She added that the Chamber will be updating their photos on their website.

5. Chairman's Report. (Mark)

Mr. Wasserman remarked that he had shopped and visited the business *Hen & Heifer* in Town. They will be updating their website with new products shortly. He also visited, the House of Fashion and remarked about how nice it has come together.

6. Sub-Committee/Board Liaison Reports.

- Town Forum (Gunningsmith, Paranto)

Mr. Paranto reported that they had not had a chance to meet since the last meeting.

- Town Profile on State Film site (Meisel)

Mr. Wasserman asked for an additional volunteer to assist with this project.

Ms. Dockray volunteered to do this. Mr. Wasserman will email the work that has been completed thus far.

- Land Acquisition Committee (Paranto)

No Report.

- Signage (Meisel, Egan)

Continued status from last month. Mr. McGlone stated that the Committee met and has revised proposals and will meet with the State Representative in the near future.

Discussion.

- Parking (Sands, Paranto, Orce)

Discussion.

7. New Business

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Sands and seconded by Mr. Paranto the Economic Development Commission voted to open the agenda and add the request of the Mr. Matthew Hoey III, First Selectman to endorse support for the Tweed New Haven Airport runway expansion.

In favor: Cuzzo, Dockray, Egan, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Discussion.

Mr. Wasserman passed out a support card that can be sent to support the expansion of the runway at Tweed New Haven Airport. The request supports more commercial air service at Tweed New Haven Airport and the request asks to remove the restriction on the length of the runway.

(card clerked with minutes).

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Sands and seconded by Mr. Paranto the Economic Development Commission voted to endorse support for the Tweed New Haven Airport expansion suggested by Mr. Matthew Hoey III, First Selectman.

In favor: Cuozzo, Dockray, Egan, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

- 2018 Awards. (Tabled from February 6, 2018)

Mr. McGlone distributed a list of potential recipients to give years of service awards to. Discussion of either a breakfast meeting or Mr. Sands suggested that a great way to award these awards was at the EDC Meetings. Mr. McGlone will do further research to give some of these awards at the April, May and June EDC Meetings.

- Updated EDC Contact List

The Contact list was passed around at the meeting for updates.

8. Old Business.

None.

9. Approval of bill (s).

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Sands and seconded by Mr. Cuozzo the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the invoice for Secretarial Services for the month of February for the Regular Meeting for \$85.00 for Ms. Katherine DeBurra, Recording Secretary.

In favor: Cuozzo, Dockray, Egan, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

10. Adjourn

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Sands and seconded by Cuozzo, the Economic Development Commission voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2018 at 6:20 PM.

In favor: Cuozzo, Dockray, Egan, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Next Meeting; Tuesday, April 3, 2018 @ 5:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted;

Katherine DeBurra

Recording Secretary