

GUILFORD
Economic Development Commission
MINUTES
January 7, 2020
8:00 A.M.
Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, second floor

Final

Commissioners: Chair Mark Wasserman, Wendy Dockray, Amy Earls, Dave Egan (Alt), J.P. Sullivan (Alt),
Damian Gunningsmith (8:22)
Absent: Vice Chair Ted Sands, Fran Paranto, Tracy Brent Calafiore (Alt), Michael Meisel
Town Officials: Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator
Guests: Sheri Cote, President, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce

1. Communication and Public Forum (limited to 5 minutes) / Call to Order

At 8:10 am, Chair Mark Wasserman called to order the regular meeting.

The Chair, two regular members and two alternates were present providing a quorum.

There were no Public Forum comments.

2. Guest Speaker - None

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion: Dave Egan moved to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes with amendments submitted by Economic Coor. Brian McGlone, seconded by Wendy Dockray.

Vote: Carried - Wendy Dockray, Dave Egan, Amy Earls, J.P. Sullivan

4. Economic Development Coordinator's Report

Econ. Dev. Coor. Brian McGlone had emailed EDC commissioners his monthly report. He also reported :

- Snow plowing at the new St. George Church sidewalk and business parking lot will be coordinated between the Parks & Recreation Dept. and the church.
- A resident had contacted Brian requesting that parallel parking spaces along sidewalks around The Green be changed to prevent injury and to change the roads to one way. The CT Dept. of Transportation and Guilford Police Dept. have jurisdiction on Whitfield Street.

Discussion reviewed the ongoing parking, driving and pedestrian issues at the intersection of Whitfield, Boston and Water (Rte146) Streets.

Coor. McGlone advised that after complaints by merchants and the public, a local business group has raised funds to purchase a "Big Belly" trash compactor system, to replace the open trash containers that overflow and attract wildlife. This two container unit will be placed on a trial basis. Parks & Recreation Dept. have purchased a new truck to remove the trash.

Discussion concerned septic constraints on businesses since Guilford has an abundance of wetland areas. Financial incentives could be explored to help offset the cost of establishing or maintaining a business. Wendy will contact the Town Tax Assessor to request whether she can attend an EDC meeting to review options.

A press release and ribbon cutting will be done in the spring after businesses use the new St. George parking lot and are contacted for their feedback.

Consultant Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics has been reviewing and consolidating the current Zoning & Subdivision Regulations. He has met with all Town Department heads to gather input. Public Forums will be scheduled, as needed, if it becomes necessary to revise any regulations.

5. Chamber of Commerce Report

Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Sheri Cote reported on several activities including a January list of "Upcoming Events as of 1-6-20" :

- Annual awards will be presented February 27.
- State Rep. Sean Scanlon, new Executive Director for Tweed New Haven Airport, had met with the Chamber to discuss supporting business and economic growth in southern CT. An expanded runway will attract regional commuters and business.
- Director of Guilford Performing Arts has requested a Chamber community meeting for performing art groups.
- Annual Restaurant Week and the Marketing Conference will take place in March.

Discussion was held on Chamber health insurance plans offered through an insurance agency.

6. Chairman's Report

Chair Mark Wasserman recommended that the CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) weblink be added to the Town EDC page for easier public access. Econ. Coor. McGlone will contact Town webmaster Traci Brinkman to request. EDC commissioners will review the current EDC webpage for additional suggestions.

Chair Wasserman advised on his search for new office space in Guilford. Though affordable locations are limited, he recently found a suitable space. He recommended that EDC work on culminating a list of available business space.

7. Subcommittees/Board Liaison Reports

- **Land Acquisition Committee (LAC) (Paranto)** Fran Paranto was unable to attend to report.
- **Signage (Meisel, Egan)** There was no new information.
- **Parking (Sands, Paranto, Orce)** Discussion held earlier in the meeting.
- **EDC Development Incentive (Earls, Dockray, Meisel)** Discussion earlier in the meeting.

8. New Business There was no business.

9. Old Business There was no business.

10. Approval of Bills

Motion: Wendy Dockray moved to approve the Recording Secretary November invoice for \$87.50, seconded by Dave Egan.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

11. Adjournment

Motion: At 9:09 a.m., Dave Egan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Damian Gunningsmith.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary