

Town of Guilford
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 2017
5:00 PM
Guilford Town Hall-Selectmen's Meeting Room

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

Members Present: Mr. Robert Cuozzo, Mr. David Egan, Mr. Damian Gunningsmith
Mr. Michael Meisel, Mr. Michael Orce, Mr. Fran Paranto and
Mr. Theodore Sands, Vice-Chair.

Absent: Mr. Michael DeMeo, Mr. Mark Wasserman, Chair and
Mr. Mark White.

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

Mr. Sands called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. He reported that Mr. Wasserman was out of State with a family medical emergency and Mr. Sands (he) would be running the meeting this evening.

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

None.

2. Approval of the September 5, 2017 minutes.

Discussion.

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Paranto and seconded by Mr. Orce the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, September 5, 2017, with the following corrections: Strike Mr. Leonard Prygoda (from Absent list) as he has resigned from the Commission. Under Chamber Report Change "October" 26th to September and capitalize Ted in same report.

In favor: Cuozzo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Meisel, Orce, Paranto and Sands.
Opposed: None.
Abstained: None.

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

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

Tourism Support – although our DOT representative initially seemed very supportive of our signage initiatives, recent correspondence indicates we may not be able to move forward as planned. Currently reviewing state guidelines concerning signage and will be scheduling a meeting in the near future to follow-up.

Guilford Performing Arts Festival (GPAF) – scheduled for Oct 12-15 throughout Guilford. Nearly 50 performances will occur at 17 venues over the 4 days. More information can be found at; www.guilfordperformingartsfest.org

Q4 2017 Guilford Events magazine to be distributed Oct 6.

Chamber 2018 Membership Directory – similar to 2017, Guilford, Branford and North Branford EDC's are collaborating and will place a ½ page advertisement in the directory. Cost to each Town is \$235.

Guilford Tree Lighting – sponsored by Shoreline Chamber and in collaboration with Guilford EDC and Park and Rec, will occur Friday Dec 1, 2017.

I would like to take a moment to THANK Ed Lazarus for all of his support and contributions as President, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce. He has been good for the Town of Guilford (and our neighboring Towns) and has certainly supported the Guilford EDC. Best Wishes to Ed and his family.

Mr. McGlone asked that the EDC Commission approve the money for the Chamber 2018 Membership Directory insert.

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Egan and seconded by Mr. Meisel the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the \$235.00 for the ½ page advertisement in the Chamber 2018 Membership Directory insert.

In favor: Cuozzo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Meisel, Orce, Paranto and Sands.
Opposed: None.
Abstained: None.

Discussion.

4. Chamber of Commerce Report. (Ed) (Absent)

Mr. Edward Lazarus, Chamber of Commerce Liaison (Absent) shared the following information/report with the Commission in report via email. Inserted.

Chamber Report:

Chamber Update

- Initiated new Young Professionals Network. First meeting was held at Thimble Island Brewery and attracted over 30 individuals.
- Net90 Networking Group has just “turned two years old”. This continues to be a very attractive chamber offering with over 50 people at each monthly session.
- Completed Business after Hours at Sarah’s Cupboard. Over 40 in attendance.
- October 11, 2017: Women of Excellence Awards at Woodwinds. Features recipients from five towns. Guilford’s recipient is Nikki Travaglino
- October 14, 2017: Chowder Challenge for a Cause. Ten restaurants participating in locations around the green.
- October 24, 2017: Business after Hours at Shoreline YMCA
- Membership Directory and Town Guide for 2018 is nearing completion
- Tourism video of Guilford completed and can be viewed on Chamber site.
- Chamber is working with Ted Kennedy Jr. on Tourism forum.
- Working with Liza Petra and the Guilford Foundation on Town wide workshop focusing on diversity.

Final note: If you have not heard, I wanted to be certain to let you know that I have decided to leave the Chamber. My last day is October 4, 2017. It has been a great ten years but it is time to seek out new adventures. I have enjoyed working with all of you and wish the Guilford EDC continued success.

After October 4, 2017 I can be reached at EdLazarus62@Gmail.com

Discussion.

Mr. Meisel suggested that the Commission draft a resolution to thank Mr. Lazarus. Mr. McGlone will ask Ms. Karen Quercia, Executive Assistant to the First Selectman in the Selectman's Office to compose one, framing it and asking Mr. Mazza, First Selectman to sign it.

5. Chairman's Report. (Mark) (Absent)

Mr. Sands read Mr. Wasserman's report into the record of the minutes. Inserted.

Ted will be leading the meeting tonight but I wanted to give you a bit of information in my absence...

1. U-Haul was back in front of the DRC last month and had positive feedback on the new design that was done by a local architect. Dave Milano was there with concerns about lighting, traffic and the overall size of the building. There was also an employee of U-Haul; she was there to support the project. I also spoke at the meeting reminding the DRC that the Milano family owns a storage facility in Madison and that this project would be a direct competitor to them. I also addressed David's concerns about lighting saying "U-Haul will have a lot less lighting than a car dealership as they tend to leave their lights on all night long." I also mentioned that traffic would be lighter than a dealership because there would not be as many people "test driving" U-Haul vans.
2. A Financial Planning firm is in negotiations to purchase the Wire Journal property. They were also at DRC to have the driveway to the building moved to the other side of the property. The current driveway is a shared driveway with the property next door and they do not want to continue that relationship. This passed DRC and will head to P & Z.
3. Ed Lazarus has resigned from the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce to pursue a career in higher education. His last day will be this Wednesday. He is unable to attend tonight because they are throwing a goodbye party for him tonight. I spoke to him last week and he wishes us much success and is sorry he can't make it tonight to say goodbye in person. I am not sure if we will have coverage on EDC until a new president is hired.

Have a great meeting and I will see you all next month. Mark

Mr. McGlone added that an Architect firm from New Haven was recently put into place for the project (Item #1 in Mr. Wasserman's report) that has done other projects before the (DRC) (Design Review Committee). The Committee Board seemed pleased with their design presentation.

Mr. Sands added that he is happy to hear that someone is moving into the Wire Journal Property.

6. Sub-Committee/Board Liaison Reports.

- Town Forum (Gunningsmith, Paranto)

No Report.

- Town Profile on State Film site (Meisel)

No Report.

- Land Acquisition Committee (Paranto)

No Report. Mr. Paranto stated he attended the Land Acquisition Committee meeting but it was completed in Executive Session. He reported he may have information that he can share at the next EDC Meeting.

- Signage (Meisel, Egan)

As he reported above in Item # 3. Mr. McGlone reported that he is reviewing the packet of information from the DOT. The initial conversations with the DOT Representative and meetings about the new signs seemed very supportive of the signage initiatives, recent correspondence indicates and leads him to believe that the ones that were selected may not be able to move forward as planned. Conversations and correspondence since the meeting have some restrictions to the proposed ideas. After his review of the information he will be scheduling a meeting with the DOT to follow-up on the project. Mr. Sands suggested that Mr. Scanlon be contacted for support in completing this project. Mr. Meisel stated that this project is a “plus” to Guilford!

Discussion.

- Parking (Sands, Paranto, Orce)

Mr. Sands began the discussion of parking. His research has found that the Town has 260 parking spaces around certain areas of the Green and abutting areas. He suggested some ideas to a shared parking idea that could free up some of the spots in front of the merchant’s businesses.

Discussion.

He asked his Committee, Mr. Paranto and Mr. Orce to remain after the EDC Meeting to discuss taking a parking survey of the merchants/businesses and how many employees each have. This Sub-Committee will return will more information at a future meeting.

7. New Business

- Ed Lazarus

Mr. Sands restated the news about the retirement of Mr. Lazarus.

Mr. Egan distributed a flyer/invitation to the retirement party of Mr. Joseph Mazza, retiring First Selectman which will be on November 29, 2017 at the Woodwinds in Branford from 6:00-9:00 PM. Tickets are \$50 and all are invited.

Discussion.

8. Old Business.

None.

9. Approval of bill (s).

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Cuozzo and seconded by Mr. Gunningsmith the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the invoice for Secretarial Services for the month of September, Regular Meeting for \$63.75 for Ms. Katherine DeBurra, Recording Secretary.

In favor: Cuozzo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Meisel, Orce, Paranto and Sands.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

10. Adjourn

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Egan and seconded by Mr. Cuzzo, the Economic Development Commission voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2017 at 5:55 PM.

In favor: Cuzzo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Meisel, Orce, Paranto and Sands.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Next Meeting Tuesday, November 7, 2017 @ 5:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted;

Katherine DeBurra

Recording Secretary