

Town of Guilford  
Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, November 7, 2017  
5:00 PM  
Guilford Town Hall-Small Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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

Members Present: Mr. Robert Cuzzo, Mr. Michael DeMeo, Mr. David Egan,  
Mr. Damian Gunningsmith, Mr. Michael Orce, (Arrived 5:20 PM),  
Mr. Fran Paranto, Mr. Theodore Sands, Vice-Chair and  
Mr. Mark Wasserman, Chair.

Absent: Mr. Michael Meisel and Mr. Mark White.

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

Mr. Wasserman called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

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

Mr. Wasserman stated that he had received an email from Mr. Mike Mikolay, Police Commission Chair. Mr. Mikolay had written to the Commission after seeing an article in *The Patch* about the research the EDC Commission is doing on the parking in the downtown area around the Green. Discussion.

2. Approval of the October 3, 2017 minutes.

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Egan and seconded by Mr. Sands the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, October 3, 2017, with a correction to page 2; Mr. Wasserman suggested changing **THANK** to **thank** to not represent yelling.

In favor: Cuozzo, DeMeo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.  
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.

**Tourism Support – Signage Project** – We met with our DOT Representative and we are “redefining” our plans and expectations to a degree. The Main Exit Sign(s) must be slightly smaller, however, we are recommending some additional “way finding” information to be included, providing general directions to the Town Green and other selected Tourist Attractions. Next step is to meet with our Sign Vendor and then make our proposal to the DOT.

**Guilford Performing Arts Festival (GPAF)** – occurred over Oct 12-15. By all accounts and feedback, was a huge success. Nearly 50 performances occurred over the 4 days in 17 venues around town. With the help of sign-ins and “wrist band” utilization, we estimated over 4K people attended all of the events. Our restaurant community reported “packed houses” as did many other businesses noticing an uptick in business. In parallel to the GPAF on Saturday, the Halloween Window Painting activity (10 am to Noon) and the Chamber Chowder Challenge (Noon to 3 pm) were occurring. Viso Bello by the Seashore held an open house too. (Note, Viso Bello had a formal Chamber Ribbon Cutting Celebration on 10/19).

**U-Haul – DRC meeting (10/19)** – after numerous meetings with DRC, it appears they are now pleased with the U – Haul major designs and they will be supportive of U-Haul proceeding to P & Z.

**30 Water Street** - (historic renovation to office space and 2 apartments above) has been approved through DRC and P & Z. Project construction expected to start soon.

**350 Goose Lane**-existing 4.5K sf building is fully occupied by The Stone Agency. Foundation has been poured for the “first” new building, 16K sf, framing to begin soon. Several tenants showing interest, nothing confirmed as yet. They expect to start 2<sup>nd</sup> new building, 24K sf fairly soon.

**Patriot Center** – no additional tenants to report, CT Gastro occupying 10K sf of 20K sf in the first building.

**Bioasis Technologies Inc** – have opened a 5 person Guilford office at 14 Water Street (former Guilford Co-Working, next to Quattro's). This is their first US office as they are a Vancouver Canada based company. They are a “biopharmaceutical company focused on the delivery of therapeutics across the blood-brain barrier and into the central nervous system” .....does that clarify what they do ??

Great to have a firm like this in Guilford that probably represents a growing opportunity over time.

**2016-2017 EDC Annual Report** is due 12/1/17. I will begin gathering data and will draft a summary for review.

**Tree Lighting** – plans underway for Friday Dec 1, 2017 event, 6 pm prompt start.

**Mark Wasserman** – at the BOS meeting on 11/6/17 was reappointed to serve on the EDC for a term to expire November 30, 2021.

Additionally he passed around a certificate completed by Karen Quercia in the First Selectman's Office that will be sent to Mr. Lazarus Chamber Liaison in appreciation for his work over the last few years in his position with the Chamber. The Commission complimented the Certificate and framing.

4. Chamber of Commerce Report.

No Report.

Mr. Sands asked if there will be another representative from the Chamber replacing Mr. Lazarus. Mr. McGlone will re-send a list of the Commission's meeting dates to them.

5. Chairman's Report. (Mark)

No Report.

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)

Mr. Paranto stated that the Committee is waiting until after the election to present a proposal to the Board of Selectmen.

- Signage (Meisel, Egan)

As Mr. McGlone reported in his report above: The Committee met with our DOT Representative and we are “redefining” our plans and expectations to a degree. The Main Exit Sign (s) must be slightly smaller, however, we are recommending some additional “way finding” information to be included, providing general directions to the Town Green and other selected Tourist Attractions. Next step is to meet with our Sign Vendor and then make our proposal to the DOT.

- Parking (Sands, Paranto, Orce)

Mr. Paranto reported that he visited just about all of the businesses in the downtown area to research information about parking. He has determined there are approximately 110-130 employees who may park in the area. Discussion.

Mr. Sands added that from the approximately 260 total parking spaces, 130 being employees and 20-50 being tenants that may not leave many parking spaces for customer use.

Discussion of possible solutions.

Mr. Wasserman and Mr. Sands will set up a meeting with Mr. Mikolay from the Police Commission to discuss this in the near future.

7. New Business

None.

8. Old Business.

None.

9. Approval of bill (s).

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Paranto and seconded by Mr. Cuozzo the Economic Development Commission voted to approve the invoice for Secretarial Services for the month of October, Regular Meeting for \$ 68.00 for Ms. Katherine DeBurra, Recording Secretary.

In favor: Cuozzo, DeMeo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Orce, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.  
Opposed: None.  
Abstained: None.

#### 10. Adjourn

Motion: Upon a motion by Mr. Cuozzo and seconded by Mr. Paranto, the Economic Development Commission voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2017 at 6:15 PM.

In favor: Cuozzo, DeMeo, Egan, Gunningsmith, Orce, Paranto, Sands, Wasserman.  
Opposed: None.  
Abstained: None.

Next Meeting Tuesday, December 5, 2017 @ 5:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted;  
Katherine DeBurra  
Recording Secretary