

**GUILFORD
Economic Development Commission
MINUTES**

March 3, 2020

8:00 A.M.

Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, second floor

Commissioners: Chair Mark Wasserman, Vice Chair Ted Sands, Amy Earls, Damian Gunningsmith, Wendy Dockray, Dave Egan (Alt), J.P. Sullivan (Alt), Tracy Brent Calafiore (Alt)
Absent: Michael Meisel
Town Officials: Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator
Guests: None

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

At 8:03 am, Chair Mark Wasserman called to order the regular meeting.

The Chair, four regular members and three alternates were present. All Alternates were seated to vote.

There were no Public Forum comments.

2. Guest Speaker There was no guest speaker this month.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion: Dave Egan moved to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes with amendment, page 2, under "Guest Speakers from REX Development : Ginny Kozlowski - Executive Director and Barbara Malmberg - Marketing Director (8-9 AM)", to change "low income..." to "lower income housing...", seconded by Amy Earls.

*Vote: Carried - Dave Egan, Amy Earls, J.P. Sullivan, Mark Wasserman, Ted Sands
Abstained - Wendy Dockray, Damian Gunningsmith (February Absence)*

4. Economic Development Coordinator's Report

Economic Development Coordinator Brian McGlone provided highlights of his monthly report, emailed to EDC members prior to this meeting : Brian provided an article on a new bedside MRI, developed by 'Hyperfine Research', a division of the Rothberg Company located in Guilford. (See report and article). This device has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to sell to the public. Brian recommended that EDC publicly recognize this achievement and other businesses who develop products that benefit the public. Also, the Rothberg organization 'Butterfly Network' has created "Butterfly I.Q.", a handheld ultrasound device.

Discussion reviewed ways to publicize any local business that invents or creates a product which could benefit Guilford or the general population. The Town could consider a one time or regular abatement tax incentives for these businesses.

EDCoor. McGlone submitted a flyer from The Green Merchants Association announcing "Guilford Restaurant Week, March 5 - 11, 2020" (guilfordrestaurantweek.com and Facebook). This event will also attract people to local stores.

Regional Economic Excelevation (REX) reps. Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg have set monthly meeting dates for the fourth Friday, at 12 pm, in their North Haven office. Towns pay annual REX membership dues.

5. Chamber of Commerce Report

The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "Bagels and BioTech" on Friday, March 6, at 7:45 am to 9 am, at La Luna restaurant in Branford. Three leading experts will provide information about the biotech industry. A Legislative Forum, with state and local legislators, will be held March 9, 2020, 8am - 9 am, at the Guilford Community Center. Citizens will have the opportunity to present discussion topics of their interest or concern.

6. Chairman's Report

Chair Mark Wasserman reported:

- Work is being done to remove the fifty year old water tower, next to the Guilford Diner, on Boston Post Road (Route 1).
- The Courier had an article on the, partially completed, CT Dept. of Transportation (DOT), Route 146 Water Main Replacement Project. This will connect to residences. Construction will impact summer traffic and the Town Center area into the fall. Town Engineer Janice Plaziak is in discussion with the Water Company to connect the system to the one in the center of town. This construction will cause a major disruption, including parking and access to businesses.

Discussion was held on ways to mitigate impact :

- Guilford and State Police have jurisdiction over traffic control.
- Fire Chief Herrschaft advocates for fire and public safety as the upgrades are done to replace 100 year old water pipes.
- Chair Wasserman and Coor. McGlone will contact Town Eng. Plaziak regarding the construction schedule.

7. Subcommittee/Board Liaison Reports

- **Signage - (Meisel, Egan)**

Michael Meisel was absent. He reported by email that he had contacted First Selectman Matt Hoey, who will provide information as he receives it, regarding the maintenance requirement for the Welcome to Guilford signage project. Chair Wasserman will contact First Selectman Hoey for any further information.

Discussion reviewed DOT directional and color coded signs.

- **EDC Development Incentives (Earls, Dockray, Meisel)**

Discussion was held on development incentives which can benefit the Town and the developer. Chair Wasserman reported that he and Coor. Brian McGlone and Town Planner George Kral had met with developer Victor Anatra to review tax assessment on his partially completed construction project. Town taxes have increased as his project increased in value. Tax relief is not given until a certificate of occupancy is approved for residential multi-use developments. Tax assessment regulations from other towns' are also being reviewed. Some towns offer incentives to nonresidential property owners. First Selectman Hoey has requested that EDC provide revision recommendations to the current Planning and Zoning regulations.

Further discussion will take place at the April meeting and a decision will be made on recommendations.

8. New Business There was no business.

9. Old Business There was no business.

10. Approval of Bills

Motion: Ted Sands moved to approve the Recording Secretary February invoice for \$87.50, seconded by Wendy Dockray.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

11. Adjournment

Motion: At 9:27 a.m., Wendy Dockray moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Amy Earls.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary