

**GUILFORD  
Economic Development Commission  
MINUTES**

**June 2, 2020**

**8:00 A.M.**

**Due to the Corona Virus 19 pandemic, Town meetings are held  
Online via Zoom.com**

Commissioners: Chair Mark Wasserman, Vice Chair Ted Sands, Amy Earls, ,  
Wendy Dockray, Damian Gunningsmith, 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 8:05 am, Chair Mark Wasserman called to order the regular meeting.

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

There were no Public Forum comments.

**2. Guest Speaker - None**

**3. Approval of May 5, 2020 Minutes**

Upon review,

*Motion: Ted Sands moved to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes, seconded by Wendy Dockray.*

*Vote: Carried - Ted Sand, Amy Earls, Wendy Dockray, Dave Egan, J.P. Sullivan, Tracy Brent Calafiore  
Abstained - Damian Gunningsmith (May Absence)*

**4. Economic Development Coordinator's Report**

Brian McGlone reported :

- Due to Covid-9 protocols, he has worked from home for ten weeks. As new protocols are in place, he will be in his office two days a week and work from home the other days so far.
- He is in contact with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, local and state offices reviewing economic assistance programs and other essential business services, including federal programs.
- Meetings and calls continue using Zoom.com and the Town Hall building access protocols continue to be changed.
- First Selectman Hoey requested that Brian assist the Guilford Lakes Golf Course administrators prepare safety protocols to reopen on May 2.

- On May 7, from 6-8 pm, a Zoom.com and Facebook online "Virtual Shopping" night took place for local businesses. "Downtown Rebound" a Facebook program has been created by local businesses interviewing stores to advise on their safety procedures in place for customers to shop, their products and sales events.
- On May 6, J.P. Sullivan, Mark Wasserman, Chamber of Commerce Pres. Sheri Cote and Brian distributed face masks and thermometers, provided by the State of CT, to a list of businesses. People pick up at the Community Center between 11am - 1 pm. On May 28 another shipment is expected.
- The Town has created an "Outdoor Seating" application for restaurants.

Brian advised that he was drafting recommendations, including the Town and Gov. Lamont's new procedures, to support publicizing open businesses, signs, outdoor dining and online shopping. Brian will continue to review these matters with the Zoning Officer. Small businesses are suffering economic loss especially due to cancellations of annual historic events and fairs that attract tourists and seasonal resident patrons and state funding expirations.

Discussion followed :

- Recommendations included allowing temporary latitude on usual application criteria and extra fees, especially signage regulations. Business may close by lack of public awareness.
- Publicizing open small businesses is essential.
- Brian will continue discussion with First Selectman Hoey and Zoning officials.
- EDC members suggested ways to support public awareness of all open business and on Town website and Facebook page.
- Brian made a recommendation to Parks and Recreation that unused Town picnic tables be placed on The Green for take out or picnics. Town officials are concerned with liability, less staff to mow and sanitize tables all day/evening though other parks have current tables.
- U-Haul has done landscaping and marked parking spaces at their new Route One location, to be constructed later this year.
- Metro Pooch's new building is under construction. Planning and Zoning has been working with them before and after they made changes to their original design plan, which includes resolution of wetlands issues. A Public Hearing and vote will take place tomorrow.
- Amy Earls advised that the Nutmeg Gymnastics has closed due to the landlord raising the rent. The new computer-operated trash compactor bin was placed on The Green.

**5. Chamber of Commerce** Chamber President Sheri Cote was not present to report.

**6. Chairman's Report**

Chair Mark Wasserman reported that there may be less corporations filling business space locations. Mark and Brian McGlone will resume distribution of protective face masks for business employees.

**7. Subcommittees**

**Signage**            There was no new information.

**Economic Development Incentives**    Amy Earls is working on creating business incentives.

**8. New Business**            There was no business

**9. Old Business**            There was no business.

**10. Approval of Bills**

*Motion:            Tracy Brent Calafiore moved to approve the Recording Secretary May invoice for \$61.25, seconded by Wendy Dockray.*

*Vote:              Carried - Unanimously*

**11. Adjournment**

*Motion:            At 8:55 a.m., Ted Sand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tracy Brent Calafiore*

*Vote:              Carried - Unanimously*

Respectfully Submitted,

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*Judith Anderson Castellano*  
Recording Secretary