

**GUILFORD
Economic Development Commission
MINUTES**

September 1, 2020

8:00 A.M.

**Due to the Coronavirus 19 pandemic, Town meetings are held
Online via Zoom.com go to [www.http//ci.guilford.ct.us](http://ci.guilford.ct.us)**

Commissioners: Chair Mark Wasserman, Vice Chair Ted Sands (8:08), Amy Earls, Michael Meisel, Damian Gunningsmith, J.P. Sullivan, Dave Egan (Alt)(8:08), Wendy Dockray (8:34)

Absent: Tracy Brent Calafiore (Alt)

Town Officials: None

Guests: Sheri Cote, President, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce

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

At 8:02 am, Chair Mark Wasserman called to order the regular meeting.

The Chair and five regular members were present for a quorum with one alternate.

2. Guest Speaker - None

3. Approval of August 4, 2020 Minutes

Upon review,

Motion: Michael Meisel moved to approve the August 4, 2020 minutes, seconded by Amy Earls.

*Vote: Carried - Amy Earls, Wendy Dockray, Michael Meisel, Damian Gunningsmith
Abstained : J.P. Sullivan (August absence)*

4. Economic Development Coordinator's Report

Chair Mark Wasserman reported that there was no update on Guilford businesses.

5. Chamber of Commerce

Chamber President Sheri Cote reported on several chamber events, including yet not limited to :

*The Chamber continues to hold Zoom.com meetings.

*Virtual Training Sessions to serve businesses and nonprofits at no charge continue to support each other and share concerns. These were created at the beginning of Covid-19.

*Round table nonprofit CEOs' meeting will continue every two weeks.

*On September 10 a meeting will be held with CT Businesses to discuss using the Chamber website.

- *Business After Hours meeting will be held “in person” in North Branford, with safe social distancing and face coverings
- *Nonprofit Conference
- *Guilford Green Merchants will meet September 10, supported by the Chamber.
- *Annual Women in Excellence Awards , October 8, 2020 News 8 Anchor Ann Nyberg will host the virtual event. This year Women and Family Life Director, Meghan Scanlon, will receive an award.
- *Chamber is looking for new office space possibly in Guilford.
- *Annual Taste of Shoreline will be held September 26 on the Town Green.

6. Chairman's Report

Chair Wasserman reported :

- * Moogey Burgers has opened in the Guilford Commons.
- * Fresh Market is doing well.
- *Maritime Grill has less business. The dining room has been re-arranged for social distancing with indoor and outdoor seating.

(Ted Sands and Dave Egan arrived)

7. Subcommittees

Signage

Michael Meisel reported that he, Chair Wasserman and Dave Egan had met via Zoom.com with First Selectman Hoey, Dir. Public Works Tom Fillion, Dir. Parks & Recreation Rick Maynard, CT Dept. of Transportation (DOT) representative Todd Ingara, and others regarding the CT “Adopt a Ramp Program”. Welcome to Guilford signs would be installed at Guilford's I-95 exit ramps. Discussion was held on requirements for a grounds maintenance agreement. Towns can hire a landscape contractor. Selectman Hoey recommended that EDC wait for the new Economic Development Coordinator to begin and meet with that person and with the Town committee which has been working on this project for about two years.

Economic Development Incentives

Amy Earls reported that the subcommittee on tax incentives (Amy, Damian and J.P.) have created a spreadsheet of about 45 addresses of commercial and large residential properties. They will meet with the new Econ. Dev. Coordinator when available. In July, the subcommittee met with First Selectman Hoey who had requested that EDC recommend a plan. There are properties available near Tractor Supply and Anthony's Restaurant on Boston Post Road.

A concierge may be necessary to assist with applications and other work previously done by the Econ. Dev. Coordinator. The subcommittee will meet again to review options.

Referring to the Town committee working on Welcome to Guilford signs, Dave Egan volunteered to be a member of that committee. Six ramp signs and way finding signs must use a coordinated design.

(Wendy Dockray arrived)

Chair Wasserman expressed appreciation to Michael Meisel and Amy Earls for their work on their respective subcommittees.

8. New Business There was no business.

9. Old Business

Discussion was held on whether the new Economic Development Coordinator would be part or full time and shared with the Town of Madison. Chair Wasserman advised that it will be a part time interim position until a permanent person is hired.

10. Approval of Bills

Motion: Ted Sands moved to approve the Recording Secretary August invoice for \$88.75, seconded by Dave Egan.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

11. Adjournment

Motion: At 8:36 a.m., Dave Egan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Damian Gunningsmith.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano