

Colchester Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 20, 2017  
Colchester Town Hall @7pm

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COLCHESTER, CT  
2017 MAR 22 PM 2:53

*Gayle Furman*  
GAYLE FURMAN  
TOWN CLERK

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trevor Falconi, Jim Ford, John Dion, Bruce Goldstein, Bruce Fox and Jean Walsh

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Planner R Benson, BOF A Bisbikos, and Clerk T Dean

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chair T Falconi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comments – none**

**3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

J Falconi asked to add #5b Election of Chairperson

J Ford moved to add to the agenda as presented, seconded by B Goldstein. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Approve Minutes of the February 21, 2017 Regular Meeting**

J Dion moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes of February 21, 2017, seconded by B Goldstein. Unanimously approved with one abstentions by B Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

**5. New Business**

**a. New Business and Projects – First Selectman, Town Planner**

R Benson stated there is a project in the works with Colvest Group, the empty lot near Starbucks. Interest from a developer in purchasing property on Parum Road, however the property owner decided to charge a higher rate that originally offered so the developer will not proceed. Another site next to Tractor Supply has been approved for 8,000 sq ft. Old Hung Won location changing over to a Mexican Restaurant. R Benson and J Walsh met with the Town Clerk to get a list of businesses in town for uploading to the pending website. Plans still in process for fitness center off Old Hartford Rd. Discussion on Old Jack Chevy property took place. Contamination has been cleaned up by the property owner.

**b. Election of Chair**

J Ford moved to nominate J Walsh as chairperson starting March 20, 2017 until December 30, 2017, seconded by B Fox. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

J Walsh took over as Chair

**6. Old Business**

**a. Committee Reports**

**i. Website and Opportunities Map – Jean, Stacy, Trevor – no update**

**ii. Meeting with Hop Culture Farm – Jean, Bruce**

R Benson, B Fox, J Walsh, and Assessor John Chaponis met with the owners to give them a better understanding of what is included with a tax abatement. J Walsh stated there is a separate farming and farming machinery exemption that is also available. J Walsh wants to look at other towns CTIP program to see if they can improve on the process or add to it for Colchester. B Goldstein stated that the commission should get more familiar with the statutes, also that they will need to table or pull the CTIP application for the owners if they are not going to go forward. R Benson stated that he received an email from the owners that states they are withdrawing their application.

B Goldstein moved to accept the email as official notification of Hop Culture Farm CTIP application withdrawal, seconded by T Falconi. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

**iii. Sign Development – Bruce Fox**

B Fox shared multiple sketches of signs to choose from. J Walsh shared that the BOS liked the look of the signs. J Ford mentioned to keep in mind that the letters need to be 2". Commission decided on blue for lettering. All materials, design and potential solar lights are being donated. Discussed locations for signs.

**iv. Economic Development Community Event – Jean** – no date received from P&R regarding food festival

**v. Municipal Development Plan – J Ford**

Meeting set for 3/28 at 2pm with the DECD in Hartford. R Benson and B Fox will join.

**7. Adjourn**

J Ford moved to adjourn at 7:49 p.m., seconded by J Dion. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tricia Dean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tricia Dean, Clerk