

Colchester Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 15, 2017
Colchester Town Hall @7pm

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2017 MAY 17 AM 10:50

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Dion

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

1. **Call to Order**

J Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Public Comments – none**

3. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda - none**

4. **Approve Minutes of the March 20, 2017 Regular Meeting**

J Ford asked to correct agenda item #6.iii Sign Development, to add to the end of sentence #3 '2"high for each 100 feet of distance to read from.'

J Ford moved to approve the Regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2017, as amended, seconded by B Fox. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **New Business**

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

R Benson stated on Linwood Ave, Keystone Shoppe owners purchased the house in front of the property. Colvest building a stand alone building next to Starbucks. WOW fitness wants to change location to Linwood Ave (behind Noels) vs the previous location on Old Hartford Rd. Colchester is on the list of towns 99 restaurant is interested in. R Benson and J Walsh are scheduling a visit to 99 corporate to discuss. Mexican restaurant is opening next month.

b. **Questionnaire development, (DEC to citizens)**

J Ford will get a list of survey questions to J Walsh. J Walsh would like to create an in house survey to send out to citizens.

c. **Establishment of EDC 2017-2018 goals**

J Walsh looked at Middletown's CTIP application for comparison. R Benson is revamping the current CTIP application and will have a draft for the next meeting. Developing a solicitation letter to facilitate cold-calling to business to entice them to come to Colchester. J Walsh asked the commission to generate at least 1 prospective business/month to give to the Planner. J Walsh will get a list of certified trade names for the Town Clerk. Also a list of commercial and residential permits applied for from P&Z. The time frame will go back to Jan to now. J Walsh asked for a running list of vacant residential and commercial properties from Town Clerk. Discussed Table of Contents/to do list, asked commission to review and give feedback before next meeting. Discussed Map for the Arline trail of area restaurants. It will then be laminated and posted at several locations along the airline trail.

d. **Potential speaker for upcoming meeting**

CIRC would come and talk at a meeting to help the commission answer questions from new businesses. All commission members present were in favor of having CIRC attend a July meeting.

6. **Old Business - none**

7. **Committee Reports**

a. **Website and Opportunity Map – Jean, Stacy, Trevor**

J Walsh gave out a spreadsheet regarding potential new website options from her talk with CBA. Requested bios of all commission members to include on the website. Asked commission to review each proposed web sections and give feedback or changes. Discussed all things to include on web.

b. Sign Development – Bruce Fox

B Fox stated that the materials have been ordered and received. AP testing has slowed process down at the moment. B Fox will review the final draft when it's ready. Planning on June installation.

c. Economic Development Community Event – Jean

R Benson and J Walsh went to the CBA meeting to reach out and partner with them. CBA donated a booth to the Tag Sale on the Green on 6/11 to the commission. J Walsh asked for volunteers and would like to have drafted materials ready to hand out.

d. Municipal Development Plan – J Ford

On 3/28 R Benson and J Ford met with the DECD and they suggested to target the STEEP Grant application. They missed the deadline so there will be one ready for next year. J Ford explained what the grant could do for the town.

8. Adjourn

J Ford moved to adjourn at 8:14 p.m., seconded by B Fox. 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