

Colchester Economic Development Commission
Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 7:00 PM
Colchester Town Hall, Room 2

Members Present: J. Walsh, T. Falconi, M. Hinchliffe, J. Dion, B. Goldstein, and B. Fox (arrived at 7:46pm)

Others Present: Town Planner R. Benson, BOF A. Bisbikos, Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition Wendy Burry & Deb Mathiasen, S. Durel, Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Community Coalition and Clerk J. Campbell

1. **Call to Order** - J. Walsh called meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
2. **Public Comments** – None
3. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **October 16, 2017, Special Meeting November 1, 2017 and Special Meeting November 6, 2017 (NOTE: No meeting Nov & Dec 2017)** B. Goldstein MOTIONED to approve the minutes for the meetings of 10-16-2017, 11-1-2017 and 11-06-2017, SECONDED by M. Hinchliffe. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition presentation** – Wendy Burry & Deb Mathiasen hosted a presentation. The Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in New London governed by a board of directors comprising cultural, community, and business leadership. The Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition fosters region-wide economic growth in New London County by optimizing existing and new arts and cultural activities to assure that cultural sector and creative business assets are central to the vitality of the region.
 - b. **New Businesses and Projects-First Selectman, Town Planner** - INCORD application will be going to the Planning & Zoning Commission tomorrow night. COLVEST wants to build a 70,000 sq. ft. building on Linwood Avenue. Tractor Supply, has possibility to add 8,000 sq. ft. building and has heard from Dollar Tree, who like to bring a shop to that building. R. Benson has put Dollar Tree in touch with COLVEST and the Hub Ford property on Norwich Avenue. Cold call letters have gone out to: TJMaxx/Marshalls, Cracker Barrel, 99 Restaurant, Simon Pierce, etc. In addition to businesses the EDC is including trade schools. EB Training is growing as well as Pratt & Whitney. B. Fox asked if the EDC should contact local business in Colchester and ask them what the Town might be able to do to help them expand. T. Falconi stated that in his search for a store front, he found rents and mortgages are high. He spoke with a realtor and asked about joining forces to potentially lower rents. Civic Pride and Economic Fair are still in the works. R. Benson stated that the white house by Rite Aid will either be moved to the back of the property or disassembled to be rebuilt at a later date. Brewery needs interior renovations, but is still in progress.
 - c. **Discussion on Signage Regulations / Wayfinding Signage program (Daphne Schaub)** R. Benson spoke on the purpose behind this agenda item, however D. Schaub was unable to attend, this item will be tabled to another meeting.
 - d. **Discussion on proposed idea for CBA / all business “spruce up”** – J. Walsh spoke about trying to beautify Downtown Colchester. EDC would like to partner with the CBA and Colchester Garden Club to complete this idea. Contests were suggested by the Garden Club to get business owners to participate.
 - e. **MISC: Info from class on “how to hold a public meeting”, reported interested people in EDC & issues** – Emailed to members

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6. Old Business

a. Committee Reports

- i. **Website and Opportunity Map – Jean, Trever** – T. Falconi stated that the website is still not updated. He feels as though the website is too outdated to do what the EDC would like to do. J. Walsh stated that at this point there isn't anything that can be done about getting a new website and would like the work done with what they have.
- ii. **Sign Development – Bruce Fox/ J Walsh** – J. Walsh stated that she has an investor that wants to move forward with the 2nd Welcome to Colchester sign. Investor needs an invoice for the cost of the sign. Investor also wants zero recognition. B. Fox will work with J. Walsh to get the invoice to the investor. B. Fox would still like to include the school and boy scouts and would also like to remain the point on this project. Colchester Garden Club has asked to beautify the area around the sign.
- iii. **Spread sheet discussion** – J. Walsh reported that approx. 70 new trade names were registered for 2017.
- iv. **Member info update** – Member information is up to date.

7. Adjournment

B. Goldstein MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm, SECONDED by T. Falconi. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Campbell, Clerk