



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK Economic Development Commission

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475
Telephone (860) 395-3139 • FAX (860) 395-3125

David Prendergast, Chair
Vacant, Vice Chair
Sandra Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer

Judy Ganswindt
Kacie Costello Hand
Nick Prevost
Elizabeth Swenson
Susan Quish, Alternate
Erica Cosenza, Alternate

MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, David Prendergast, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: David Prendergast, Sandra Roberts, Nick Prevost, Erica Cosenza, Susan Quish, Elizabeth Swenson- Virtual

Members absent: Kacie Costello Hand, Judy Ganswindt

Staff: Jennifer Donahue, Director of Economic Development & Communications; Sarah Makowicki, Recording Clerk

III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT – None

IV. GUESTS – Michael Bender, Amy Souchuns

V. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Donahue updated the Commission on the addition of Michael Bender as an alternate with the resignation of Carol Conklin, this resignation also elevates Susan Quish to full member.

Ms. Donahue is working with Chris Costa to craft an RFP to obtain an updated market analysis and economic opportunity study of Mariner's Way, with the emphasis on a specific plan for development.

Ms. Donahue gave an update that Old Saybrook did not receive the community challenge grant that was slated for the Saybrook Point parcel.

Ms. Donahue updated the Commission on the "Road Trip Masters" television segment. The video is available on Amazon Prime. The EDC and The Kate are working together to have a screening of the segment along with a business networking reception, which could also introduce the renewed focus on Main Street and the downtown which is being funded by ARPA monies.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. December 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2022 as presented. **MADE** by S. Quish **SECONDED** by N. Prevost; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, S. Quish, N. Prevost, S. Roberts, E. Cosenza, **ABSTAINING:** None ; **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. RFP for Marketing Services

Ms. Donahue updated the Commission on the RFP and the potential vendors that will be asked to bid for marketing services.

VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS - Nominating Committee – Elizabeth Swenson and a member TBD.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Referral Request from Zoning Commission: “Fine Fettle Cannabis” Application for Special Exception Use 2,600 s.f. retail recreational marijuana dispensary, 1,400 s.f. vacant space & 1,000 s.f. storage above. 233 Boston Post Road, Assessor’s Map 44, Lot 11, Business B-4 District.

Attorney Amy Souchuns presented for the applicant. The revised application reduces the square footage to address the issues of the Zoning Commission.

Ms. Souchuns predicts that the facility will bring in \$250,000- \$300,000 annually.

Ms. Souchuns asked that the EDC submit a letter to the ZC as before stating the economic benefits of the facility to the town.

Commission members discussed the application. The Commission members discussed the tax revenue and how the Commission could become involved with spending the restricted funds.

MOTION to convey to the Zoning Commission the EDC’s opinion that there are economic development benefits to the application by Fine Fettle Dispensary for the 2,600 sq. ft. adult-use marijuana dispensary at 233 Boston Post Road that should be considered, including local tax benefits to the Town of Old Saybrook by switching from a medical facility to an adult-use facility, as well as employment benefits including 3% tax revenue for the Town of Old Saybrook on product sales and employment including benefits for 8-10 people. **MADE** by N. Prevost **SECONDED** by E. Swenson; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, N. Prevost, **ABSTAINING:** E. Swenson; **OPPOSED:** S. Roberts, E. Cosenza, S. Quish **FAILED:** 2-1-3. Motion did not pass.

B. Review Application for Art Hallway – Artist Cindy Stevens’ work was shown to the Commission.

MOTION to approve Cindy Stevens as the artist for the Art Hallway. **MADE** by E. Cosenza **SECONDED** by S. Quish; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, N. Prevost, S. Roberts, E. Cosenza, S. Quish, E. Swenson, **ABSTAINING:** None; **OPPOSED:** None; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

C. Discuss Officer Nominations for March Meeting - Nominating Committee – Elizabeth Swenson and a member TBD.

X. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR - None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023 until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting of the Economic Development Commission on February 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second-floor conference room; **MADE** by N. Prevost **SECONDED** by S. Quish; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, N. Prevost, S. Roberts, E. Cosenza, S. Quish, E. Swenson, **ABSTAINING:** None; **OPPOSED:** None; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Makowicki
Recording Clerk