



## TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK Economic Development Commission

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

Matthew Pugliese, Chair  
Carol Conklin, Vice Chair  
John DeCristoforo, Secretary/Treasurer

David Cole  
Judy Ganswindt  
Sandra Roberts  
Elizabeth Swenson  
Joseph Arcari, Alternate  
David Prendergast, Alternate

### MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook Town Hall

7:30 pm

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matthew Pugliese called the meeting to order at 7:41pm.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Matthew Pugliese, Carol Conklin, Judy Ganswindt, Elizabeth Swenson, David Prendergast

Members absent: Joseph Arcari, David Cole, Sandra Roberts, John DeCristoforo

#### III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

#### IV. GUEST

#### V. STAFF REPORT

Susie Beckman, Economic Development Coordinator distributed a monthly report. She reported that Facebook continues to grow; the number of followers has tripled since January of this year. Facebook and Instagram posts continue with an average of 2-3 posts per week.

There was a discussion about the closing of Denali and possible businesses that might lease the space. Liz Swenson brought up the idea of a co-working space. She also asked about revisiting the Economic Development Agency non-profit arm, which would have the ability to apply for grants and purchase property.

A motion was made by E. Swenson and seconded by C. Conklin to move forward to create an economic development non profit. M. Pugliese stated he does not know the risks and benefits associated with such a non-profit and asked that the discussion and decision be tabled to the next meeting. It was agreed that S. Beckman will gather more information to present to the Commission. Dave Prendergast offered information about the non-profit he developed in Naugatuck with that town's Economic Development Commission and will try to obtain the bi-laws of that group to share with the Commission.

S. Beckman reported that the Commission received a \$2,000 grant from Eversource to purchase an art hanging system for the Art Hallway in Town Hall. The Rotary Club has agreed to provide \$3,000 for lighting.

C. Conklin offered a suggestion to have a marketing piece created, i.e. magnets, that would encourage people to like the EDC Facebook page.

C. Conklin discussed the I-95 tourist/rest stop and suggested that the EDC send an email to Devin Carney and local and state reps, to ask about and promote the reopening of the Westbrook location. S. Beckman is to draft a letter.

## **VI. REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of Minutes: June 13, 2019**

**MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2019; **MADE** by D. Prendergast, **SECONDED** by E. Swenson; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, C. Conklin, J. Ganswindt, E. Swenson, and D. Prendergast; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

### **B. Correspondence & Announcements**

A thank you note was received from the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce for the EDC's advertisement in the Chamber's "Shop Dine Explore" brochure. The EDC has also made a \$100.00 "Friend" sponsorship to the Chamber's Arts & Crafts Festival.

Agway has merged with Smithfield Supply, and expects to open the Old Saybrook store within the next four weeks. The store will be the same, the sign will reflect the change in ownership.

S. Beckman reported that there is renewed interest in a trolley for local transportation. There was agreement that this should be explored and S. Beckman will stay in touch with town of Clinton to learn more about their experience with the summer trolley service. She also reported that 9Town Transit would be willing to work with the Town, and there may also be interest from CT DOT to assist with the purchase of a trolley. She will hear from Joe Commerford of 9Town about how their on-demand service goes.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

## **VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

### **A. ED PoCD Update – Matt/Susie**

M. Pugliese reported that the group met the end of June, that the draft will go through another round of revisions, and plans to share it with the Commission at the September meeting.

### **B. Mariner's Way**

S. Beckman reported that packets are being assembled and will be sent out soon. She will bring them to the next meeting.

### **C. Marketing Plan – no report**

D. Recognition of Long-Term Businesses/Spirit of Saybrook – awards were made last month

E. Arts & Culture

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

X. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

M. Pugliese invited Don Brodeur, an owner of the building known as “Cat in the Hat,” to speak to the Commission, possibly at the September meeting. He will discuss future plans for the building.

M. Pugliese met with Liz Shapiro, with CT Office of the Arts, who is interested in working with small towns. M. Pugliese will stay in touch with her regarding opportunities for the Town.

D. Prendergast suggested having future recognition awards laminated. He estimated the cost at \$55 each. There was general agreement with the suggestion.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Commission which will be held on August 8, 2019 at 7:30pm, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second floor conference room; **MADE** by M. Pugliese; **SECONDED** by C. Conklin; **VOTING IN FAVOR**: M. Pugliese, C. Conklin, J. Ganswindt, E. Swenson, and D. Prendergast; **OPPOSED**: None; **ABSTAINING**: None; **APPROVED**: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz  
Recording Clerk