



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

January 9, 2020

2nd Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook Town Hall
7:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matthew Pugliese called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Matthew Pugliese, David Cole, Sandra Roberts, John DeCristoforo.
Carol Conklin arrived at 7:24pm.

Members absent: Judy Ganswindt, Elizabeth Swenson, David Prendergast, Joseph Arcari,

Also present was Cate Hewitt, reporter with CT Examiner.

III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

IV. GUEST

V. STAFF REPORT

Economic Development Director Susie Beckman distributed copies of the staff report, and noted some of the following highlights:

- Facebook audience tripled last year
- 13 conversations were held in November and December with existing and potential business or property owners
- Xtra Mile, a ride sharing program offered by 9-Town Transit has been extended
- Section 2 of the Economic Development Strategy will be presented at an upcoming joint meeting of the EDC and Planning Commission.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2019

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of November 14, 2019; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by J. DeCristoforo; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

MOTION to add to the agenda 'Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2019'; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by J. DeCristoforo; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2019; **MADE** by J. DeCristoforo; **SECONDED** by D. Cole; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J.



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DeCristoforo, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED**: None; **ABSTAINING**: D. Cole; **APPROVED**: 3-0-1

B. Correspondence & Announcements

1. Referral from Zoning Commission – Petition to Amend Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations to delete Section 65 Excavation & Grading and add new Special Standard to Section 53 Material Removal, Filling, & Excavation

MOTION to send a letter to the Zoning Commission stating that the Commission has reviewed the above referenced matter and recommends no modifications; **MADE** by J. DeCristoforo; **SECONDED** by D. Cole; **VOTING IN FAVOR**: M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED**: None; **ABSTAINING**: None; **APPROVED**: 4-0-0.

2. Referral from Zoning Commission – Petition to Amend Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations Section 68.1.5B3 to remove prohibition of illuminated playing fields and add new Special Standard to Section 53 to permit Athletic Field Lighting on properties of 11 acres or more in the Residence A and Industrial I Districts owned by the Town of Old Saybrook or Fire Company #1.

Members discussed lighting of the high school football field and impact on neighboring homes. C. Conklin explained that lighting has changed in recent years with reduced spread and glare. She noted that there are not a lot of evening activities in town, and that from an economic development point of view, it might bring families in from other towns, who might then stay and dine afterwards.

MOTION to send a letter to the Zoning Commission in support of their efforts for 'Petition to Amend Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations Section 68.1.5B3'; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by J. DeCristoforo; **VOTING IN FAVOR**: M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, C. Conklin, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED**: None; **ABSTAINING**: None; **APPROVED**: 5-0-0.

S. Beckman referred to the Commission a request from the Chamber of Commerce for a ballot sponsorship to the Chili Fest in the amount of \$100. Ballot sponsor names are printed on the ballot.

MOTION to support the O.S. Chamber of Commerce with a Ballot Sponsoship in the amount of \$100. **MADE** by C. Conklin; **SECONDED** by J. DeCristoforo; **VOTING IN FAVOR**: M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, C. Conklin, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED**: None; **ABSTAINING**: None; **APPROVED**: 5-0-0.



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S. Beckman reported that the owner of Pathway Lighting, Fred Stark, has expressed ongoing frustration with their efforts with Eversource to have a utility pole moved. S. Beckman will talk to the Eversource representative to ask how best to make some progress.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

A. ED PoCD update –S Beckman reported that the plan update is almost completed. The next step is to review section 2 with the Planning Commission at a joint meeting, tentatively planned for February 5.

Marketing: (see staff report)

Arts & Culture: on Feb 12 at 11 am there will be a dedication of the new art hallway installation. One art application has already been received.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. STEAP Grant Project Concepts

S. Beckman asked members for ideas for possible grant submissions. Some suggestions are:

- revolving loan fund for facade improvements
- streetscape improvements in specific parts of town
- open up other side of train station for direct pedestrian access into the business park
- signage/planter off exit 66
- something geared toward the TIF district i.e. pedestrian path, sidewalk
- dock improvements, shell fishing
- bike share
- trolley service

X. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- Parks & Recreation and the Board of Finance had voted to fund a strategic planning process which prioritizes four parks. M. Pugliese would like the EDC to be represented, and be part of the discussion.
- The library is exploring a maker's space. M. Pugliese would like to extend an invitation to the librarian, Amanda Brouwer to talk to the EDC. He noted that a co-working space is one of the tactics in the revised PoCD.
- M. Pugliese brought up the trolley idea and asked if the commission still wants to explore it. S. Beckman is going to speak with the executive director of 9Town Transit to inquire about rental costs and feasibility.
- M. Pugliese will be sending a couple of web site examples to members for review to begin a discussion of how to better organize content on the EDC web site.



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XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Commission which will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7:00pm, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second floor conference room; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by C. Conklin; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, C. Conklin, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz
Recording Clerk