



## TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK Economic Development Commission

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

Vacant, Chair  
Carol Conklin, Vice Chair  
John DeCristoforo, Secretary/Treasurer

David Cole  
Judy Ganswindt  
Sandra Roberts  
Elizabeth Swenson  
David Prendergast, Alternate  
Barbara Labriola, Alternate

### MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

7:00 pm

Videoconference

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair, Elizabeth Swenson, called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Meeting held via videoconference.

Members present: Sandra Roberts, Elizabeth Swenson, and David Prendergast, and Barbara Labriola seated for John DeCristoforo; Carol Conklin arrived at 7:17pm.

Members absent: John DeCristoforo, David Cole, Judy Ganswindt,

Staff: Susie Beckman, Economic Development Director, and Meryl Moskowitz, Recording Clerk

Members of the public: Nick Prevost, Dennis Tulimieri

#### III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

#### IV. GUESTS

#### V. STAFF REPORT

S. Beckman highlighted the following:

- The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was expanded and application deadline is March 31.
- The Emergency Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) will be open to all businesses through the end of the year.
- The February newsletter had a higher open rate than previous months.
- Funding for Geofencing and Facebook ads were used to promote the Chamber of Commerce's Chili Week, resulting in increased impressions, views and visits to Main Street
- DEEP announced a permit concierge service to expedite permitting.
- It was determined after meeting with Amtrak representatives that it is not possible for the Town to gain public access to the CT River near the Amtrak railroad bridge, due to engineering and geographic reasons

#### VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2021

**MOTION** to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2021 as presented. **MADE** by D. Prendergast; **SECONDED** by B. Labriola; **VOTED IN FAVOR**: S. Roberts, E. Swenson, D. Prendergast, and B. Labriola; **OPPOSED**: none; **ABSTAINED**: none; **APPROVED**: 4-0-0.

## B. Correspondence & Announcements

- a. Referral: “Theater Marquee Sign” Petition to Amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations  
Text amendment to define 'marquis'
- b. Referral: “The Kate” Application for Special Exception Use

Vice Chair Carol Conklin assumed the role of Chair. S. Beckman explained that the regulation changes would be specific to a theater sign; that the sign would be lit one hour before and after a show, and the lights would not move when the theater is dark. Members stated general support of both referrals. Members directed S. Beckman to send a letter of support to the Zoning Commission.

**MOTION** to send a letter of support to the Zoning Commission for “Theater Marquee Sign” and “The Kate” Application for Special Exception Use; **MADE** by C. Conklin; **SECONDED** by E. Swenson; **VOTED IN FAVOR**: C. Conklin, S. Roberts, E. Swenson, D. Prendergast, and B. Labriola; **OPPOSED**: none; **ABSTAINED**: none; **APPROVED**: 5-0-0.

S. Beckman discussed Acton Library's ten year plan, part of which is to do an architectural feasibility study, to reconfigure the space to meet the community's needs. Part of the reconfiguration will address co-working space. She is applying to the USDA for a rural business development grant, for the feasibility study. She asked that members review a drafted letter that is posted online and provide any comments or feedback. E. Swenson expressed support and added that a study room at the library would be beneficial.

S. Beckman reminded members of the 2021 Housing Forum, hosted by the Land Use Department, on Tuesday March 30 at 6pm, via Zoom. All commissions are invited.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Small Business & Employment Recovery Update – no update

### B. EDC Officer Elections

E. Swenson, representing the nominating committee of E. Swenson and D. Cole, presented the slate of nominations: David Prendergast as Chair, Carol Conklin as Vice Chair, Sandy Roberts as Secretary.

**MOTION** by C. Conklin to approve the slate of nominations for officers: David Prendergast as Chair, Carol Conklin as Vice Chair, Sandy Roberts as Secretary; **SECONDED** by D. Prendergast; **VOTED IN FAVOR**: C. Conklin, S. Roberts, E. Swenson, D. Prendergast, and B. Labriola; **OPPOSED**: none; **ABSTAINED**: none; **APPROVED**: 5-0-0.

**MOTION** by S. Roberts to elect the slate of nominated officers: David Prendergast as Chair, Carol Conklin as Vice Chair, Sandy Roberts as Secretary; **SECONDED** by B. Labriola; **VOTED IN**

**FAVOR:** C. Conklin, S. Roberts, E. Swenson, D. Prendergast, and B. Labriola; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0. **ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

A. Business Recognition - no update

B. Affordable Housing Taskforce

E. Swenson reported that the survey timetable has been extended, that it will help set priorities for Old Saybrook. They expect to complete the survey end of May or June.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Holiday Season Attractions 2021

C. Conklin discussed the idea of an ice rink by Parks & Recreation.

B. Website/Marketing Materials Sponsorships

S. Beckman reported she received an unsolicited letter from a bus company inquiring about sponsoring the web page "Getting Here." The Town attorney saw no legal issue with it. S. Beckman plans to write up a policy guideline about sponsorships and further explore this option.

## X. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

C. Conklin reminded members of the public hearing on Monday, March 15 for the application "Smoke on the Water" and encouraged people to attend or submit their opinion prior to the meeting.

C. Conklin inquired if marketing funds would be used for the Preserve, to promote outdoor activity.

E. Swenson felt it was premature to promote to the public as the trails are not well-defined.

D. Prendergast welcomed new members Barbara Labriola and Nick Prevost.

There was discussion about how best to show support for "Smoke on the Water." Members agreed that the newly appointed Chair should speak publicly at the meeting on behalf of the EDC.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Commission which will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., via videoconference; **MADE** by D. Prendergast, **SECONDED** by S. Roberts; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Conklin, S. Roberts, E. Swenson, D. Prendergast, and B. Labriola; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz  
Recording Clerk