

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, November 11, 2021 – 7 P.M.

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

The chair, David Prendergast, called the meeting to order at 7:22 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: David Prendergast, Carol Conklin, Nick Prevost, Elizabeth Swenson

Members absent: Sandra Roberts, David Cole, Judy Ganswindt, Kacie Costello Hand

Staff: Susan Beckman, Economic Development Director

III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT - none

IV. GUESTS – none

V. STAFF REPORT

S. Beckman distributed a staff report for October. An update on the Saybrook Starlight Festival scheduled for December 4 was attached and discussed in further detail. A logo and collateral materials have been designed and printed, advertisements will be placed in the Shore Publishing newspapers and in the E-List for two weeks, digital advertising is planned and a flyer will be distributed to all organizations next week to send to their email distribution lists. The SaybrookStarlight.com domain has been purchased and a landing page created that includes a schedule of events. Many organizations are participating and Osso Associates/Majestic Electric Company is working with us to provide electrical connections and hang lights on the Town Green.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2021

Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of October 14, 2021; **MADE** by N. Prevost; **SECONDED** by D. Prendergast; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, C. Conklin, N. Prevost, E. Swenson. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

B. Correspondence & Announcements - none

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY '22-'23 Budget – discussion moved to the December 9th meeting.

B. December 4 Update – provided during review of Director's Report

C. New Signs at Exit 67 off ramp – This will most likely be a capital request in FY'23 and will be discussed further at the December 9th meeting.

VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

A. Business Recognition Advisory Group- N. Prevost said he and D. Cole would have a report in December. N. Prevost requested a digital copy of the list of businesses.

B. Façade Improvement/Revolving Loan Fund/Development Fund – K. Hand. No report.

C. ARPA Advisory Group – No report.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Potential Projects for ARPA Funding - A list of potential projects is currently available on the Meeting Materials page and will be reviewed at the December 9th meeting.
- B. Approval of Meeting Dates for 2022 – The commissioners reviewed the meeting dates for 2022 which will remain on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm.

MOTION to approve the Calendar of EDC Regular Meeting Dates for 2022 ; **MADE** by N. Prevost; **SECONDED** by C. Conklin; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, C. Conklin, N. Prevost, E. Swenson. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

X. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR** – D. Prendergast asked for additional comments from commissioners.

E. Swenson suggested that the EDC partner with the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Preserve Ad Hoc Committee to promote hiking opportunities in the Preserve with Chris Cryder as a paid guide. She commented that it is still very easy to get lost in the Preserve and believed there is an opportunity to promote winter and spring hiking opportunities with a guide. Chris Cryder knows the Preserve very well and can lead participants on exploratory hikes leading to areas of the Preserve that they may not otherwise visit and sharing information about the natural environment. There is the opportunity to take videos to promote the Preserve as well. She would like this item on the agenda as an on-going effort.

N. Prevost commented that it is hard to find information about things to do in Old Saybrook. As a real estate agent, he likes to provide this information for prospective home buyers. S. Beckman does have information on the EDC website but it is not easy to find and has links to pdfs and other sites. N. Prevost suggested adding information in pdf form so it's easy to print out. C. Conklin suggested adding the link to the page with the list of things to do to all social media posts.

With no other comments, D. Prendergast wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting of the Economic Development Commission on December 9, 2021 at 7:00pm, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second floor conference room; **MADE** by N. Prevost; **SECONDED** by C. Conklin; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D. Prendergast, C. Conklin, N. Prevost, E. Swenson. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Beckman, Economic Development Director
Acting Recording Clerk