



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Economic Development Commission

302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475
oldsaybrookct.gov

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

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matthew Pugliese called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Matthew Pugliese, John DeCristoforo, David Cole, Sandra Roberts, Judy Ganswindt, Elizabeth Swenson

Members absent: Carol Conklin, Joseph Arcari,

Staff: Susan Beckman, Economic Development Director, Meryl Moskowitz, Recording Clerk

III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

One member of the public was present.

IV. GUEST

Kevin Geenty, Vice President of The Geenty Group and owner of Old Saybrook Business Park spoke about the business park, the companies that are currently leasing space, the amount of space available, and answered questions from members. The Business Park is located at Mill Rock Road, East. It is a multi-tenant flex park offering space for offices, call center, high-tech assembly, medical billing, and warehouse & distribution. There are eight buildings with 210,000 sq. ft. of space, currently 27 tenant companies and a total of 454 employees. Mr. Geenty has not seen a problem with attracting labor. One drawback to attracting companies is the lack of sewers, which restricts the types of businesses that can operate there.

V. STAFF REPORT

S. Beckman distributed a monthly staff report and also informed members about Caffè Marche's interest in a zoning change for Bed and Breakfasts to allow one inn keeper in residence for both properties because they are side-by-side and the costs of having inn-keepers at both is prohibitive. The owners own two properties, both of which operate as Bed and Breakfasts. The owner has asked for a letter of support from the Commission. It was decided that members would review the minutes of the latest Zoning Commission meeting to learn more about the matter.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes: January 10, 2019

MOTION to approve the January 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented; **MADE** by J. DeCristoforo, **SECONDED** by J. Ganswindt; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** S. Roberts, J. Ganswindt, J. DeCristoforo, E. Swenson; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** D. Cole, M. Pugliese; **APPROVED:** 4-0-2.

B. Correspondence & Announcements

Dave Prendergast was appointed as an alternate member and is to be sworn in.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY20 Budget Update

S. Beckman presented the FY20 budget to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen on January 29.

B. OS Schools PR Committee Joint Video Launch

S. Beckman reported that the Mariner's way video and the Town-wide video have been finalized and are ready to launch. They will be offered to businesses for their use, on their web sites, and for marketing, as well as to real estate agents who may wish to link to the video and share with potential residents. They will also be sent to some of the larger employers in the area.

C. Joint Land Use Commission Meeting

S. Roberts and E. Swenson found the meeting to be very informative.

VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

A. ED PoCD Update – dates are scheduled in March for stakeholder input sessions

B. Mariner's Way Redevelopment

The videos and marketing plans are being finalized.

C. Marketing Plan – videos are complete and being rolled-out

D. Recognition of Long-Term Businesses/Spirit of Saybrook

J. DeCristoforo and D. Cole are looking at Fall 2019 to hold a presentation.

E. Arts & Culture

S. Beckman reported on a program that she has been assisting with, called "Move," an event featuring local artists, poets, visual artists, and dance groups, which is scheduled for March 3rd at The Kate.

E. Swenson mentioned The Preserve & Recreational Use Survey, encouraging members to take the survey and share with peers.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual officer elections

D. Cole and E. Swenson offered to be on the nominating committee to nominate officers to the Economic Development Commission.

X. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

M. Pugliese reviewed revisions to the meeting agenda, and asked that members requesting new business items on the agenda do so when the draft agenda is sent out, if not sooner.

XI. STAFF REPORT**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Commission which will be held on March 14, 2019 at 7:30p.m., Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second floor conference room; **MADE** by D. Cole;
SECONDED by J. Ganswindt; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, D. Cole, J. Ganswindt, J. DeCristoforo, E. Swenson, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None;
APPROVED: 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz
Recording Clerk