



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
David Prendergast, Alternate*

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 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 7:33pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Matthew Pugliese, John DeCristoforo, David Cole, Sandra Roberts, Elizabeth Swenson, David Prendergast, Carol Conklin arrived at 7:48pm

Members absent: Joseph Arcari, Judy Ganswindt,

Staff: Susan Beckman, Economic Development Director, Meryl Moskowitz, Recording Clerk
Guests: Marty Drobriarz, business owner, and Susan Esty, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission

III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

IV. GUEST

Susan Esty, resident, business owner, and Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission, addressed the Commission with three ideas for consideration.

- a proposed CT River Walk, starting at the Fenwick side of the causeway and continuing to Gardiner's Landing and beyond. According to S. Esty, most of the route is already created, and would need to be put into pamphlet form.
- a centralized public wi-fi in town
- clean up of the Dock 'n Dine property. S. Esty stated concerns about public safety. S. Beckman added that Jon Kodoma had responded to First Selectman Carl Fortuna stating he would do something about it. S. Esty stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission wrote a letter to C. Fortuna asking for right of first refusal from property owner J. Kodoma, if and when he wants to sell the property.

Also, S. Esty commented on the tree removals occurring throughout the town and stated she would like to see trees replaced. C. Conklin explained that there is a replacement plan in place.

S. Esty gave a brief update on a botanical survey that was completed on The Preserve, and which catalogued many plant species.

E. Swenson informed the Commission that The Preserve is looking into the design and construction of a trail system. They would like to hire a steward, part time to start and are drafting an RFP. Also, The Preserve committee will present a plan next week to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission for a turn-around for vehicles.

V. STAFF REPORT

A written report was submitted.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes: February 14, 2019

MOTION to approve the February 14, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by J. DeCrisoforo; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, Carol Conklin, S. Roberts, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, E. Swenson; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** D. Prendergast; **APPROVED:** 6-0-1.

B. Correspondence & Announcements

S. Beckman reviewed correspondence from the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce, including a sponsorship menu, and a letter of thanks and an apron for support of the annual Chili Fest. The sponsorship menu will be emailed to members and discussed at the next meeting.

S. Beckman explained that the Historic District Commission is sponsoring the manufacture of two signs, and is requesting some funding by the EDC of a brochure pertaining to the Pequot War. Members requested more information about other sources of funding, how the brochures will be distributed, and size of the print run. It was suggested that perhaps the EDC logo could be included if the EDC were to commit funds.

There was a discussion about the state Tourism Office. C. Conklin inquired about the proposed State budget for tourism and suggested that an invitation be extended to that office to meet with Town representatives.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. OS Schools PR Committee Joint Video Launch

S. Beckman will be at Denali, March 27, at 9am to present the town and school videos to realtors, and will discuss how they can use the videos in their own businesses and web sites.

B. Officer Elections – tabled until April meeting

VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

A. ED PoCD Update –

M. Pugliese reported that three stakeholder information sessions were held to gather input for the Economic Development portion of The Plan of Conservation & Development, with about thirty people in attendance. A range of conversations were

held covering topics such as historic character, growth and change, tourism, creative place-making, non-profits and social services.

B. Mariner's Way Redevelopment

S. Beckman reported they are rolling out the Town video, with plans to create folders to send to targeted developers.

C. Marketing Plan

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

E. Arts & Culture

IX. NEW BUSINESS – None.

X. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

M. Pugliese welcomed new alternate member Dave Prendergast.

M. Pugliese is interested in the commercial blight ordinance, would like to have a focused discussion, and asked that Zoning Enforcement Officer Chris Costa be invited to an EDC meeting to explain the relevant regulations.

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 April 11, 2019 at 7:30p.m., Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second floor conference room; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by J. DeCristoforo; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, Carol Conklin, S. Roberts, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, E. Swenson, D. Prendergast; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz
Recording Clerk