



# 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

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

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook Town Hall

7:30 pm

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matt Pugliese called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Matt Pugliese, John DeCristoforo, David Cole, Joseph Arcari, Elizabeth Swenson, Sandra Roberts, seated, David Prendergast, seated

Members absent: Carol Conklin, Judy Ganswindt

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

#### III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

#### IV. GUEST: Chris Costa, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Zoning Enforcement Officer Chris Costa reviewed the blight ordinance, explaining that a Town commercial blight ordinance is not allowed by state statute.

Members discussed blight at the area of Saybrook Point, the former site of Dock 'n Dine restaurant, concern for public safety, and options to address it. Members agreed that S. Beckman will have a conversation with First Selectman Carl Fortuna, expressing the concerns of the Commission and options for resolution.

#### V. STAFF REPORT

S. Beckman distributed a staff report, dated April 11, 2019. One of the main points is that the BAR (Brownfield Areawide Revitalization) planning grant was closed out March 29, and a big marketing push now begins for Mariner's Way.

#### VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

##### A. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION** to approve the minutes of March 14, 2019; **MADE** by J. DeCristoforo, **SECONDED** by D. Cole; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, J. Arcari, D. Cole, E. Swenson, S. Roberts, D. Prendergast; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

## B. Correspondence & Announcements

### S. Beckman reported on the following:

- Caffé Marche plans to reopen in May, with a new chef and will be rebranded as Maple & Main.
- WEI, a company in town for 30 years and that creates robots to do manufacturing functions is being recognized by the Small Business Administration as a CT Veteran-owned small business of the year. The award will be conferred in May.
- There is a new commissioner of DECD, David Lehman (Dept of Economic & Community Development)
- Funding from EDC to the Old Saybrook Historical Society for their brochure on the Siege & Battle of Saybrook Fort is no longer needed.

Sponsorship opportunities with the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce were reviewed. There was general agreement that the EDC would continue to support the Chili Fest and the Arts & Crafts Festival, as it has done in past years.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Officer Elections

D. Cole and E. Swenson put forth nominations for the 2019 slate of EDC officers, with the recommendation to elect the same slate: Matt Pugliese as Chairman, Carol Conklin as Vice Chair, and John DeCristoforo as Secretary.

**MOTION** to accept the nominations of Economic Development Commission officers as presented: Matt Pugliese, Chairman, Carol Conklin, Vice Chair, and John DeCristoforo, Secretary; **MADE** by D. Cole, **SECONDED** by D. Prendergast; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, J. Arcari, D. Cole, E. Swenson, S. Roberts, D. Prendergast; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

**MOTION** to elect the slate of officers of the Economic Development Commission as presented: Matt Pugliese, Chairman, Carol Conklin, Vice Chair, and John DeCristoforo, Secretary; **MADE** by D. Cole, **SECONDED** by D. Prendergast; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, J. Arcari, D. Cole, E. Swenson, S. Roberts, D. Prendergast; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

## VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

### A. ED PoCD Update

The strategy group will meet the last Friday of April.

### B. Mariner's Way Redevelopment –

S. Beckman reported that a couple of developers have called about Mariner's Way. E. Swenson asked S. Beckman to find out about the Town of Madison's experience.

C. Marketing Plan –

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

J. DeCristoforo and D. Cole have identified five businesses as candidates for the "long-term business" award, and will not be moving forward this year on the Spirit of Saybrook award.

E. Arts & Culture –

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wayfinding - Review of actions to date & funding request

Parks & Recreation would like to replace the signs at Harvey's Beach and plan to pay for the two-post, larger signs. They are submitting a request to EDC to fund the smaller sign at a cost of \$1,000. There is \$8,000.00 remaining in the Wayfinding account.

**MOTION** to approve \$1,000.00 request by Parks & Recreation for the purchase of a sign to identify Harvey's Beach; **MADE** by D. Prendergrast, **SECONDED** by D.E. Swenson; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Pugliese, J. DeCristoforo, J. Arcari, D. Cole, E. Swenson, S. Roberts, D. Prendergrast; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 7-0-0.

## X. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

M. Pugliese suggested that it would be beneficial for EDC commissioners of other towns to meet. It was also suggested that CEDAS be invited, and that the EDC might also host a regional meeting or a program in conjunction with the Small Business Association.

D. Prendergast reported that he attended a Blue Ribbon Panel on Tourism. Two recommendations were made:

- 1) get an allocation of 25% of existing lodging tax (currently at 10% allocation),
- 2) change the name of the panel to Tourism, Arts & Culture

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 9:19pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Commission which will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 7:30 P.M., Town Hall, 302 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room; ; **MADE** by D. Cole; **SECONDED** by D. Prendergast; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Conklin, E. Swenson, J. DeCristoforo, D. Cole, J. Keating, M. Pugliese, J. Arcari, S. Roberts; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 8-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Meryl Moskowitz  
Recording Clerk