

Town of Montville Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 21, 2014

Town of Montville
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 21, 2014
7:00 P.M. – Montville Town Hall - Room 203

1. Call to Order
Chairman White called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present were Commissioners Marge Gatheral, Ann Mattson, John Protz, Jim Toner, Dustin White, and Tina White. Absent were Commissioners Victoriano Alarcon, Karl Butzgy and Councilor Tom McNally.
4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3 Minute limit) — none.
5. Alterations to the Agenda — none.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2014
Motion made by Commissioner Toner, seconded by Commissioner White. Discussion: A consensus was reached to hold the approval of the minutes until the next scheduled meeting. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion passed.
7. Unfinished Business
 - A. Town SWOT Analysis w/Town Planner
Discussion ensued regarding touching base with Town Planner Marcia Vlaun either by requesting her attendance at a future meeting, setting up an appointment with her and two or three Commissioners, or requesting a short, written synopsis of the key elements. The short-term goal is to create a draft of a Plan of Conservation and Development similar to that of Stonington. The Plan would eventually be brought before the Town Council for approval and posted on the website in an effort to invite new businesses and people to the Town. Commissioner Protz expressed his willingness to meet with Town Planner Vlaun. Chairman White will be touching base with her.
 - B. Montville rebranding progress with other Town entities
Chairman White reported that he presented a Business Recognition Award to B&D Autobody at the last Town Council meeting. He plans to meet with B&D Autobody in the near future for photographs for a record and further recognition in an effort to further

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engage with local businesses. Commissioner Gatheral was commended for her recommendation and obtaining the plaque. The Business Recognition Award has been an ongoing award for the past four years. Business Recognition Award Suggestions will be placed on future agendas.

- 1) Superintendent of Montville Schools Mr. Brian Levesque
 - a. Idea Round table for Suggestions and Action for School System
 - b. Analysis angle for consideration with contributing factors to include real estate and school rankings in town

The Commission felt that a larger PR plan for the schools is necessary to help make their schools more inviting in order to maintain, if not increase, their student population, in particular, and overall population, in general. For example, additional information should be placed on the website providing explanation regarding the percentage of ESL students whose scores are included in the overall test results. In addition, the website should make note of the high percentage of students who are entering college in comparison to other districts. Clearly, those with school age children are attracted to those towns that exhibit a high-ranking school system. Chairman White, on behalf of the Commission, will request an update from Superintendent Levesque and send him an open invitation to engage in future conversations with the Commission.

- C. September Business Resource Forum Update (Marge Gatheral and Jim Toner)

Commissioner Gatheral stated that all of the necessary materials have been gathered and all that remains is the placing of the return labels on the envelopes. She plans to send the mailing next week after obtaining the information for the postal machine. All of the receipts will be forwarded to Chairman White for approval, who will hand them to Finance Director Terry Hart for payment/reimbursement. The Forum will be held on Thursday, September 4. Commissioner Gatheral requested that someone from the Commission check their mailbox at Town Hall to pick up any mail-in registrations. Commissioner Toner will be contacting the participating agencies to obtain/exchange any final information. The purpose of the Forum is to build and grow entrepreneurship in Montville to, primarily, existing businesses. The Commissioners are arranging the donation of items as discussed at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Gatheral invited everyone to Dime Bank on Route 32 tomorrow, Tuesday, July 22, at 8:00 a.m. to meet with Programs and Event Manager Megan Cronin and the new President of the Montville division of the Chamber of Commerce.

- D. Commissioner Projects Update

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Commissioner Toner reported that he has spoken with two businesses in Town regarding EDC insert in their personal property tax bill. Both businesses stated that they did not notice or were not aware of the insert. He will be touching base with them in the near future as will Chairman White with other businesses in Town.

Chairman White will be touching base with Lt. Bunnell.

8. New Business

A. Commissioner "Idea's For Action" (IFA)

Commissioner Protz will create a proposal of website recommendations for review for the EDC's page on the Town website by the Commission in preparation for a meeting with Webmaster Donna Geary.

B. Feedback from the town people and businesses

Chairman White reported that the overall general comment deals with issues of blight.

9. EDC Liaison Tom McNally Update — not present.

10. Commissioner Action Items for Next meeting

Chairman White will touch base with Town Planner Vlaun for a SWOT Analysis re-engagement. He will also send an open invitation to Superintendent Levesque.

Suggestions for Business Recognition Award recipients.

11. Communications

Mailings were received by CERC, Cedars CT Economic Development Association, and the CT Economic Review for the Commissioners.

12. Remarks from the Public (3 Minute limit) — none.

13. Remarks from the Commissioners

Chairman White informed the Commission that he will be back on sea duty and will have limited availability.

14. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Toner, seconded by Commissioner White, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice Vote, 6-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville