

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
Chairman Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Sheelagh Lapinski, Christopher Napierski, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Also present was. Absent were Commissioners Karl Butzgy, Christopher DiNoto, Mickey Gillette, Brian Quinn and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers.

Chairman Hewitt welcomed new commission member Sheelagh Lapinski. A quorum was present.
4. Alterations to the Agenda
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski, to hold Agenda Items #5 and #6 in abeyance until such time as Mayor McDaniel gets out of his meeting and comes to the EDC meeting. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
5. High Level Discussion with Mayor Ron McDaniel (points we hope to touch on):
 - a. 125 Depot Road (a/k/a “Rock 10” for “Montville’s Port”) A 19-foot deep slip does not seem to be enough to interest the port authority, but it might still be important for DECD and the plans for Wind Farm development
 - b. Desired direction for EDC going forward. (Blight, data collection were mentioned in the past but the Commission was not clear regarding how they might in fact approach such issues or if they would fit the Commission’s charter.)
 - c. Town employee participation with EDC.
 - d. Outlook for 2019 and beyond.
6. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit)
7. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:
 - a. The Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 19, 2018.
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2018, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Opportunity Zones Workshop

Chairman Hewitt reported he attended the workshop and asked if he had sent the info on the event to the Commission. He stated he would post the info on the blog. He then spoke about the premise of the opportunity zones whereby the State designated regions within Connecticut to reinvest capital gains and if the investment is kept within the opportunity zones for ten (10) years no taxes would be incurred on the capital gains based on a sliding scale. Chairman Hewitt stated a federal grant was involved and said reinvestment had to occur within an economically comprised region and improved by developing jobs etc. One (1) area in Norwich and two (2) in New London were chosen as opportunity zones. This bill was frozen by Congress but there is another unfolding to encourage and foster development.

b. EDC Website

i. Town of Montville

Commissioner Napierski stated not much was happening with the site.

ii. Facebook

Commissioner Napierski reported he had published on the site entitled “Montville EDC” and suggested the Commission discuss next year or at its next meeting the type of information it wants to post and information to direct users to its online sources such as the blog and Town EDC site. Highlight events and upcoming meetings were discussed through connect links.

iii. seCTer

Chairman Hewitt said there no changes to discuss. He also mentioned information he forwarded from N. Cowser that he wanted to discuss with Mayor McDaniel when he arrives.

iv. Blog for EDC (Currently at <http://whewitt.com>)

This agenda item was discussed earlier under Item b.ii.

c. New Business Report.

Chairman Hewitt asked if the Commission had reviewed the new business report from T. Williams since the last one was received in October when he sent a letter to Home Advancements, LLC. He explained to Commissioner Lapinski the Commission procedure of sending letters to new Town businesses and said he forward her a copy of the M-BAP.

d. Potential formation of a Montville Community Development Corporation – 501(c)(3)

Chairman Hewitt said the item would be discussed with Mayor McDaniel.

9. New Business

2019 Small Business Forum Event Planning

Chairman Hewitt stated it was time to start plans for it. Commissioner Toner said a decision needed to be made as to a theme stating the theme for the last to events was “Start a Business, Grow a Business” and the parties presented expounded on that theme. He

suggested the Commission focus on the reason why businesses are leaving Montville such as Faria B whether the Commission was to involve itself in those types of matters. Commissioner Toner also brought up businesses that are leaving the Mohegan Sun and mentioned the challenge to the Commission proposed by Town Councilor Rogers a year ago. That challenge was to find a vacant property and work to fill it with a business-- Commissioner Toner said his two attempts were unsuccessful. His suggestion was to take on one specific property but said he thought the best focus for the Commission was to continue to help businesses strengthen and expand the forum with the ISO certification standard and promote the aspect of working for the state and municipal government. Commissioner Napierski commented on that additional support that was to have been a part of last year's forum. Chairman Hewitt spoke funding aspects and raising it. The DECD grants has grants to fund the training of a business worker in a depressed area up to a year for a stipend of up to \$18,000. Chairman Hewitt suggested mapping Montville to determine where it would qualify for such things. Commissioner Toner said Town Planner Vlaun and Mayor McDaniel would be sources for that data. He suggested the 2019 forum focus on the discussion this evening to put pencil to paper at the January meeting. Chairman Hewitt directed Commissioner Lapinski to links concerning the 2018 forum for reference. Commissioner Toner will prepare a draft of potential presenters that he will forward to Chairman Hewitt for transmission to the Commission.

b. Businesses leaving Mohegan Sun – Opportunity to them to Rte. 32?

The Commission considered venues that are going out of business with the suggestion to send a letter to start a dialogue for relocating to Montville proper. Commissioner Lapinski spoke about her follow up with corporate of a former Montville business and the results from the same. The Commission then talked about how to promote Town properties through a marketing plan. Commissioner Toner said the plan for conservation development is complete and has been improved with graphics and supporting data and provisions regarding infrastructure. He also discussed the Commission's lack of a charter stating its worth in the past 15 years has been the blight ordinance and support for it through the efforts and enforcement of the Building Department and Zoning Wetlands Officer. Chairman Hewitt inquired about the Zoning Officer Monthly Report received previously by the Commission. He will contact T. Williams for the same. He also asked why limit itself to businesses leaving the casino.

10. Townspeople and Business Feedback

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

Chairman Hewitt spoke about the presentation to Bonner Electric at the Town Council meeting on Monday. The Commission commented on the buzz from the plaques that are being prominently displayed. The recipients for the balance of the fiscal year will be kept confidential for the surprise element.

11. Report from Town Council Liaison

Town Council Chairman McNally commented on behalf of Town Councilor Rogers about attendance at the seCTer breakfast meeting and a Chambers of Commerce membership

concern. Discussion followed concerning the strengths of towns regarding economic development. Commissioner Napierski commented on a Waterford EDC meeting he attended with strong Planning & Zoning presence.

12. Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit)
Chairman Hewitt asked three times for remarks. There were none.
13. Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison.
The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Lapinski.
14. Adjournment
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville