

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2017
7:00 p.m. – Montville Town Hall - Room 203

The meeting was informational as there was not a forum present.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Hewitt began the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Christopher Napierski, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Also present was Town Council Liaison Joseph Rogulski (7:14 p.m.). Commissioner Karl Butzgy was absent.

Per other business, Commissioner Hewitt stated the Commission would hold informational meetings in the event that a forum is not present. Town Councilor Rogulski added he would speak with Mayor McDaniel about giving a key for the building to Chairman Hewitt. Town Councilor Rogulski discussed the value of having long-term commissioners as well as new members. Commissioner Toner stated that the Commission needs members who are data driven, contributors, results oriented, and have the issues of the Town at heart. Chairman Hewitt spoke about ways to cultivate and identify new members. In addition, he proposed having a link from Facebook page to the EDC home page with a corresponding hyperlink to the application for Commission membership.

4. Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*

5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit)

Chairman Hewitt asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve: *No action*

a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2017.

7. Unfinished Business:

a. EDC Website Design (Commissioner Napierski)

Commissioner Napierski presented handouts to the Commissioners showing examples of a banner promoting Commission vacancies and asked for feedback for its placement at the top or bottom of the EDC webpage. Chairman Hewitt referenced an email he sent to the Town Clerk and the Commissioners that noted Commission vacancies were absent from the Town webpage. The webpage was updated accordingly.

b. Discuss distribution of the EDC M-BAP Pamphlet.

Commissioner Toner stated he needed more copies of the pamphlet. He added that some of agency contact persons had changed and should be updated. He agreed to mark the corrections and forward the pamphlet to Chairman Hewitt to request a second printing.

c. Discuss the Montville Conservation and Zoning Plan.

Commissioner Toner reported that Town Planner Vlaun is working on updates to the plan and may be setting a meeting to discuss them. Responding to a question, he explained the differences between a plan for conversation and development and versus a conservation and zoning plan. Commissioner Toner explained that although the plans are similar one adheres more to State statutes while the other relates to community wants/needs such as parking or sidewalks. Discussion followed about the expense for sidewalks and traffic flow changes such as the one to Bank Street in New London.

d. Consideration and action of the focus and direction of Commission.

Commissioner Toner asked how the Commission could get the Town Council and Mayor McDaniel to work with them. Town Councilor Rogulski used the analogy of a car needing tires. He stated the EDC has good framework for what it should do to help new businesses but what it lacks is the interface with local government and members to move forward. Town Councilor Rogulski suggested that the Commission visit other area Commissions to obtain feedback for discussion. The Commissioners agreed to attend area EDC meetings. Chairman Hewitt referenced the car analogy of the rubber meeting the road.

8. New Business:

a. Consideration and action for a Community Development Corporation.

Chairman Hewitt referenced the link he sent to the Commissioners regarding the same. Town Councilor Rogulski suggested meeting with Mayor McDaniel about a standalone committee. Commissioner Toner added that the Commission would also need to meet more than once a month stating that the EDC has not shown what it can do. Potential development ideas be discussed. Commissioner Napierski stated that the Commission needed to build trust.

9. Report on Existing, New, Prospective, Lost Businesses (Commissioner Toner) – *No action*

10. Feedback from the Townspeople and Businesses

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award – *No action*

11. Report from Town Council Liaison Joe Rogulski.

Town Councilor Rogulski reported on action from the last Town Council meeting including the resignation of Town Councilor L. Tanner, tax relief for Gold Star families, passage of a vote on the mutual aid agreement, and to extend Lt. Bunnell's employment for a year.

12. Communications

a. Strat Comms Working Group Update

The Commissioners concurred that the document is well put together but needs to be implemented.

13. Remarks from the Public (3 Minute limit)

Chairman Hewitt asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison Rogulski. -- *None*

15. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:06 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville