

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
Montville Town Hall - Room 203

“This was an informational meeting—a quorum was not present.”

1. Call to Order
Chairman Hewitt began the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Mickey Gillette, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Absent were Commissioners Karl Butzgy, Christopher Napierski, Christopher DiNoto, Brian Quinn and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers.
4. Alterations to the Agenda -- *No action*
5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit -- *None*)
6. Presentation by Nancy Cowser – seCTer
Nancy Cowser, Executive Director of the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer) covered several topics in her presentation to the Commission. She explained that she has lived here for 20 years and known Chairman Hewitt for years. She said seCTer was designated in 2013 to look into economic development from a regional perspective although the agency has had exposure concerning the Submarine Base closure some years ago. Montville pays dues to seCTer and as other area municipalities should get a value and return on its investment.

Ms. Cowser said she began her position 1 ½ years ago and was involved in seCTer’s first ever strategic plan and that it has restructured itself to include data sharing and grant writing, and in the future may add economic development as a resource in moving forward in the region. She spoke about Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) which she said took two (2) years to write. The strategies will focus on broad goals, a 5-year recovery plan—these along with a sound budget will work together. Ms. Cowser noted that its CEDS have been recognized as a national benchmark.

She then spoke about the restructuring of the seCTer website that will include data links and more flexibility by municipal members and networks. Ms. Cowser also mentioned that seCTer has applied to do more SBA products such as micro-lending, startup funds for businesses.

The Commission then engaged Ms. Cowser in discussion about local businesses that hurting and ways the can be helped economically, such as the Montville Commons and Grist Mill Plaza, as well as potential development quotients such as the Town’s deep water port. Town priorities, traffic patterns, and use of local realtors were proposed as considerations for development. Ms. Cowser said that seCTer worked last year collaborated with more than 600 companies. She talked about municipal value and how seCTer could assist with the same with data dumps, free services, grant writings, site finding and coordination of training.

The presentation concluded with the Commission agreeing to provide Ms. Cowser with port information. Chairman Hewitt also said that the majority of the Town web information is updated

and will be sent to her.

7. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:
 - a. The Special Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2018 – *No action*

8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Discussion / review of the New Business report.
 - i. Missing actual contact information – *No action*
 - ii. Draft of letter – *No action*
 - b. EDC Website
 - i. Town of Montville – *No action*
 - ii. FaceBook – *No action*
 - iii. seCTer – *No action*
 - iv. Blog for EDC (Currently at <http://whewitt.com>) -- *No action*

9. New Business
 - a. Brittney Harris email re: Two Montville Commons outparcels – *No Action*
 - b. Meeting with the Mayor (Sept. meeting) – *No action*

10. Townspeople and Business Feedback
 - a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award – *No action*

11. Report from Town Council Liaison- *-None*

12. Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit) – *None*

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

14. Adjournment
The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m.