

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
Vice-chair Napierski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Christopher DiNoto (7:32 p.m.), Mickey Gillette, Brian Quinn, Jim Toner, and Vice-chair Christopher Napierski. Absent were Commissioners Karl Butzgy and Chairman Walter Hewitt, and Town Council Liaison Jeff Rogers. A quorum was present.
4. Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*
5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit)
Vice-chair Napierski asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:
 - a. The Special Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2018
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2018, as written. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Unfinished Business
 - i. Proposed meeting with Port Authority
 1. To reconsider due to realization that port is not nearly as deep as we had been led to believe
Commissioner Toner spoke about the request for verification of the depth of the Town's deep port that was found to be 19 feet, not 35 feet as it was originally thought to be. Considerations for use of the port include 1) anyone looking for a port with a depth of 19 feet and 2) having a conversation with the harbormaster.
 2. May still be interest DECD is working with a company related to wind energy that is looking for 50+ acres on the water with good proximity to the New London port.
The Commission discussed the New London State Pier and the proposed windmill project in New London that may hinder access by large ships to the port. If the plans for New London move forward, alternative locations for large ships will be needed such as the port in Montville. This item will be kept on the agenda for an update from Chairman Hewitt.
 - ii. Montville Commons
Commissioner Toner reported that six (6) of the eleven (11) retail spaces at the Commons are vacant. He explained that lessees have chosen to move instead of renewing their leases due to the cost of rent per square foot. He also said the Commons owner resides in Utah and has similar malls throughout the country. Commissioner Gillette asked what the EDC could do to help.

b. EDC Website

i. Town of Montville

Vice-chair Napierski noted no changes to the EDC website link.

ii. Facebook

Vice-chair Napierski asked the commissioners to provide him with the email address they use to access Facebook concerning a priority link to an EDC Facebook page. He suggested making screenshots of the EDC Facebook that could be emailed to commissioners who do not access Facebook for which he would provide feedback.

iii. seCTer

Commissioner Toner reported that Chairman Hewitt had met with seCTer. Vice-chair Napierski added that it would be good to keep an ongoing relationship with seCTer.

iv. Blog for EDC (Currently at <http://whewitt.com>) -- *No report*

8. New Business

a. Meeting with Mayor (September meeting)

Vice-chair Napierski asked the Commission for talking points for the upcoming meeting with Mayor McDaniel. The Commission agreed that the port, discussed earlier, should be a topic for discussion in addition to directions for the role of the EDC in Town economic development. Commissioner Toner explained for the benefit of the newer Commission members that blight was a previous issue discussed by the Commission with Mayor McDaniel and is an item on the Town Council agenda for this evening. He also suggested that the Commission could be used to collect data. Commissioner Quinn asked why employees that work in Town economic development were not members of the Commission, a consideration that will be discussed with the Mayor.

9. Townspeople and Business Feedback

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

Commissioner Toner asked whether the EDC would recognize two (2) award recipients in September since there was not a representative from the business for the August award at the Town Council meeting this evening.

Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Gillette to present the EDC Business Recognition Award for August 2018 to Friendly's, with representatives of the Commission and Town Council present, at its place of business at a date and time to be determined. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

11. Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit)

Vice-chair Napierski asked three times for remarks. There were none.

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

13. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.