

## ***Durham Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes***

March 22, 2016

### **Call to order**

Chair Alana Simlick called to order the regular meeting of the Durham Economic Development Commission at 7:13 pm on March 22, 2016 at Carolyn Adams Country Barn, 352 Main Street. The venue was changed because the commission was unable to access The Durham Activity Center, 350 Main Street, Durham, CT 06422.

### **Roll call**

Chair Alana Simlick conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Janet Morganti, Christine Geraci, Kim Ryder, Alana Simlick., and Tom Stephan,

Absent: Kim Terrill, and Vicki Ann Iaccarino

### **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Kim Ryder made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2016 Economic Development meeting as written. Motion seconded by Christine Geraci and unanimously accepted.

### **Correspondence**

- a) First Selectman, Laura Francis, shared with Alana Simlick, information on EDC workshops and training sessions offered through CERC, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. All agreed that it would be worthwhile to look into and schedule a session. It was suggested to reach out to the Middlefield EDC to join us.
- b) Financial Help for Veteran-owned business: Per the request of Marco Jette, owner of Marble and Granite Countertops, Alana S. tried to find information on veteran-owned business assistance and found nothing, at this time.

### **Old business**

- a) After much discussion concerning editing paragraph 6.10 of the Economic Development Chapter of the PoCD, the following paragraph was constructed:

In conjunction with the Economic Development Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission should evaluate the desirability of permitting adaptive re-use of residential **and commercial structures** in the Main Street residential **and commercial zones**. An important part of commercial expansion may be the re-use of a portion of some buildings as offices. Modern office facilities would attract businesses that would have little impact on the environment and would require little in the way of industrial infrastructure, but would create jobs and increase the tax base. Companies involved in financial service, insurance, real estate, software development, and data processing are examples of "low-impact" enterprises that should be encouraged.

A motion to accept the new wording of paragraph 6.10 was made by Christine Geraci, seconded by Tom Stephan and unanimously accepted.

- b) 2600 Discover Durham brochures are printed and ready for distribution. Businesses that were not included this time will be able to have a listing in the second printing. Forms will be made available for interested businesses.
- c) Discussion of committees, new events and election of officers was tabled for the next regular meeting.

### **New Business**

- a) There will be a special EDC meeting held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7pm in the Durham Activity center, 350 Main Street, Durham CT with Susan Malan, consultant for the Essex Economic Development commission. Questions such as what works for small businesses in Essex, what type of community events are sponsored by the Essex EDC and what differences and similarities may exist between Durham and Essex, were proposed.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Alana Simlick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. Motion was made by Kim Ryder, seconded by Tom Stephan and approved unanimously. A special meeting of the Economic Development commission will be held in the Durham Activity Center on March 28, 2016 beginning at 6:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Janet Morganti