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Town of East Haven, CT
Economic Development Commission
ETV, 230 Main Street, East Haven, CT
Thursday, March 9, 2023, 7:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call meeting to order – roll call

Called meeting to order at 7:05pm by Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano.
Roll call taken by Economic Development Commission Clerk. Quorum present.

Present: Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano, Commissioner Michelle Antisdell, Commissioner Steve DeLucia,
Commissioner John Tarducci.

Also present: Michelle Benivegna, Town of East Haven-Economic Development Director
Tina Hedley, Clerk

Absent: Commissioner Mohan Chugani

2. Pledge of allegiance

All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of past minutes (2/9/23)

Motion made by Commissioner Steve DeLucia to approve last month's meeting minutes from Feb. 9, 2023. Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano 2nd the motion. John Tarducci abstains, none opposed, motion carries.

4. Correspondence

Clerk notes no correspondence.

5. Director's report

Directors Report, from Michelle Benivegna, Director of Economic Development.

Last meeting, we shared the East Haven High school Town of East Haven promotional video, we will continue this project. Michelle met with Jessica Spinelli, Teacher from EHHS who has been vital to this project. Discussions were had about the possibly three businesses being filmed and will be highlighted, telling why they chose East Haven, what advice they would give to a new business. The three businesses discussed were, Goodys, Transylvania, and One World Roasters. 8-10 students will partake, in this project and process. Commission members are also welcomed, possible date would be by May. More will be forthcoming.

We are also going to team up with ETV, to spotlight with businesses here. We will interview Trolley Museum, greenway trail members and more. We will work on promoting our current video as well. A business break down is in the process as the task is a large task to complete and will be presented to the commission soon.

Virtual job fair, date TBD. Participants will connect virtually; online job fairs have better participation rates. Once details are finalized, details will be given to commission.

Events: National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club 75th founders' day award luncheon is coming up.

Samantha Williams, an East Haven Resident, a distinguished, multi award, entrepreneur professional writing content engineer, digital designer, recognized business coach committed to the advancement of the black community, will be recognized.

The Town is also excited to recognize her achievements and we will be presenting a certificate to Ms. Williams as well.

New Haven Chamber of Commerce, Ann Benowitz reached out, she invited us to present at the April committee meeting, to talk about East Haven's achievements. This takes place on April 12th, will report in May how that event went and details.

Cannabis update, commission meets mid-March for text amendments, and status of applications if any, April will bring more information. Frontage Road, and Route 80 are the two locations. Not enough information is available at the moment, will provide more when available.

East Haven Courier published an article about CTE, Let's Connect, and programs East Haven High has to offer. It's a very informative piece that highlights what talented students we have in our school system – a must read.

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano asked if anyone had anything they wanted to discuss further or questions regarding the Director's report, none by the board.

John Tarducci made a motion to accept the director's report, 2nd by Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

6. Social media update

Economic Development Director, Michelle Benivegna, gave an informative report about social media. Facebook went live. We had a goal of 100 new followers, which we succeeded with 118, and to continue to share and invite friends to the page, send to contacts, ask for others to like and share. Foxon Park just did a collab with Thimble Isle Brewery, we shared that post, that had a lot of traffic on that post per Facebook Algorithms. We will try to start live streaming more events more and maybe ribbon cuttings.

No questions or comments from the commission.

7. Other new business to come before the commission

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano asked if the commission had any new business for discussion. No new business by any of the other members. Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano mentioned she met a great speaker at a recent Affordable Housing Seminar. She is hopeful to receive more information from her new contact that would be great for businesses. She reached out to her new contact.

8. Public comment

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano called for public comment.

Mr. Edwin Salmon, 9 Wheaton Road, East Haven, CT 06512

Mr. Salmon spoke for a few minutes regarding his business and ideas and thoughts for his hometown, East Haven.

Mr. Salmon owns a metal fabrication business on Main Street, and has done work for many large businesses, he is working on many designs at the moment, He has a well-established business and also lives in East Haven and has work and sculptures all over. Edwin is starting A vertical axis wind turbine (VAWT) shop, it's currently in the beginning stages and that towns will need zoning and permitting in place for his business and others to work.

Mr. Salmon mentioned, vertical axis wind turbines just spin, they're quiet, they have no light flickering, no bird issues, like other kinds.

Mr. Salmon informed the board about a few other topics as well like, energy rates, CT's energy rates, energy independence, sustainable future, train stations, expanding the airport, renewable energy and about Lamont trying to bring renewable energy to CT.

Mr. Salmon wants to manufacture and install these turbines, he wants to do BETA testing at his house and this is where zoning needs to help, he stated.

Mr. Salmon suggested that we need rules and regulations on this. Mr. Salmon had many great things to share with the commission and the commission thanked him for his time and comments tonight.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Steve Delucia made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner John Tarducci. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Hedley

Clerk