

Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 12, 2021

The East Haven Economic Development Commission held a Special Meeting Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT and transacted the following:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Robert Schumitz.

A roll call was taken and a quorum was present – Commissioners Lorrie Maiorano, Joseph Bittner, Mohan Chugani, and Robert Shumitz were in attendance; Commissioner John Tarducci was absent. Also, in attendance was Raymond Baldwin, Town of East Haven Economic Development Advisor/Management and Administration.

Item #1- All in attendance stood for Pledge of Allegiance

Item #2 – Approval of minutes from the June 28, 2021 meeting – Chairperson Schumitz asked if everyone had received and read minutes and if there were any omissions or corrections. Hearing none, a motion to accept minutes as written was asked for, Commissioner Maiorano made a motion to accept minutes as written, Chairperson Schumitz seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried, minutes from June 28, 2021 meeting accepted.

Item #3 – Correspondence – None

Item #4 - Presentation by Mr. Michael Bianchi, loan officer of The Community Economic Development Fund. The Community Economic Development Fund is a nonprofit, 501C3 organization which lends money to small businesses who can not obtain loans through traditional means such as banks. It has been in business for 26 years and is based out of Meriden, CT. Funded by 20 banks, it has 20 million dollars at its disposal to distribute to small businesses. To date, 11 million dollars has been distributed to businesses across the state of Connecticut. Loans are used for mortgages to purchase buildings, working capital to buy equipment. These are not grants, all monies are expected to be paid back, a business advisor is assigned to each loan and meets with business owner on monthly basis.

Chairperson Schumitz thanked Mr. Bianchi for his presentation and asked Mr. Baldwin how this presentation came about, Mr. Baldwin responded he reached out to Mr. Bianchi who in turn agreed to appear before the Commission. Mr. Baldwin asked Mr. Bianchi for information and a link for the Town website so as to be able to inform the Town's business community of this opportunity.

Item #5 – Presentation by Commissioner Mohan Chugani concerning labor force issues

Commissioner Chugani stated the American dream is still alive but one needs to work very hard for it. You must provide value when you work. Covid is providing difficulties for the work force. High level and entry level positions are plentiful. Suggested Town of East Haven could hold job fairs at which businesses who need staff, interview, run background checks, and hire all on spot. Also, job training workshops to improve skills would be helpful for the labor force. And, reach out to businesses who are in need of staff, have them supply a link which can be put on website and interested people can apply online.

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Item #6 – Presentation by East Haven High School Principal Vincent DeNuzzo and Assistant Principal Amy Farotti concerning Manual Arts Program offered at the East Haven High School.

Principal DeNuzzo and Assistant Principal Farotti discussed the options open to students who are not college orientated. The High School offers CTE, Career Technical Education courses for preparation in fields such as manufacturing, digital communications, accounting, culinary, healthcare (please see attached handout for complete list of course offerings). Interested students meet with guidance counselors starting in Freshman year, class schedule is tailored to fit their interests and includes core subjects such as English, History, Math as well. The school administration is currently setting up a manufacturing lab for the manufacturing production process programs. East Haven High School is in process of partnering with Goodwin College to make the high school a satellite school at which students can earn college credits. Principal DeNuzzo and Assistant Principal Farotti would like to see a partnership with Town businesses in which internships and work studies could be offered.

Item #7 – Public Comment

Lorena Venegas, 73 George Street, East Haven, CT stated she had visited businesses located on the upper part of Main Street, and one of their biggest concerns was the traffic speed problem. The speed of cars on Main Street makes it difficult for people to park on the street, get out of car and go shopping. Traffic Control needed for the businesses. Mr. Baldwin stated phase 4 of revitalization of Main Street had gone out to bid and contractor would be named soon, will add traffic control to work which needs to be done.

Item #8 – Adjournment

Chairperson Schumitz made a motion to adjourn meeting, Commissioner Maiorano seconded motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Gravino, Temporary Clerk



EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



CTE COURSE OFFERINGS

MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIP WITH GOODWIN COLLEGE

Working with Goodwin College, students can earn college credit and learn how to use machines like toolroom mills, desktop mills, and CNC machines

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION PROCESS PATHWAY/WOOD/CNC TECHNOLOGY

Prepare students for a career in industrial machinery mechanic, manufacturing technician, CNC programmer and operator

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/WEB & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS PATHWAY

Prepare students for a career in audio/video engineer, cinematographer, videographer, boom operator, screenwriter, media specialist

ACCOUNTING SERVICES PATHWAY

Prepare students for careers as auditor, accountant, certified public accountant, bookkeeper

CULINARY, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS

Prepare students for careers as a baker, pastry chef, line cook, deli cook, restaurant supervisor and manager

HEALTHCARE PATHWAY

Prepare students for careers as a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, medical and clinical laboratory

TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS PATHWAY/AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Prepare students for careers as an automotive service technician & mechanic, fleet service technician, automotive specialty technician