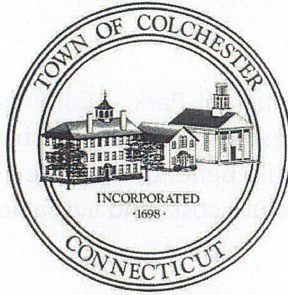


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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Town Hall Meeting Room 2

MINUTES

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COLCHESTER, CT
2024 MAR 20 PM 4:02
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: J. Faski; M. Hinchcliffe; J. Henowitz; E. Lee

Members Absent: Chairman J. Bates, Vice-Chairman H. Perham

Also Present: C. O'Donal, BoS Liaison; D. Sorrentino, Planning Director

1. **Call to Order** – Acting Chairman J. Faski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Public Comments** - None
3. **Changes or Additions to the Agenda** - None
4. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - A. Minutes of October 16, 2023 - Commissioners did not have the minutes to review, so no action was taken.
5. **New Business**
 - A. Introduction of new Commission members – New EDC members Eric Lee and Jessica Henowitz introduced themselves to the other Commissioners and provided a brief explanation of why they joined the EDC.
 - B. "State of Colchester" discussion with Planning Director
 1. New Development – Commissioners discussed new business development in Town, including Jersey Mike's, Chipotle Mexican Grill, The Harvest Corner, InCord expansion, ARK Distillery, Colchester Café & Donut, Moran Restaurant, etc.
 2. Potential Development – Commissioners discussed areas of potential future business development in Town such as Old Hartford Road, Route 85, Lake Hayward Road, Parum Road, Westchester and North Westchester. Infrastructure limitations, traffic impacts, lack of parking and what business were formerly in Town were also discussed.
 3. Other topics that may affect the Commission – Lack of, and need for, lodging in Town was discussed to support events at local winery/brewery. Inability to walk between different restaurants, bars and shops was also identified as something to improve, need to drive location to location in Colchester.

- C. Discuss potential incentives for Industrial Park – Commissioners discussed the history of Upton Road, how that area is Colchester’s de facto industrial park and that the subdivision is now nearly built out. The Town would benefit from a new area for industrial development, such as an Industrial Park. Infrastructure costs and available funding were also discussed.

6. Old Business

- A. EDC Budget – Commissioners discussed the lack of budget for EDC and other Town Boards and Commissions.
- B. Shop Local Program – Retro license plate decals appear to be well received and more are being distributed at CBA meetings. Highlighting and promoting local businesses is important. Commissioners will contemplate additional ways we can promote the shop local theme and support Colchester businesses. Cooperation with CBA is important.
- C. Colchester Promotional Video – Brief discussion regarding intent and content of promotional video, budgetary constraints make this unlikely to proceed in the future.

7. Correspondence - None

- 8. Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by M. Hinchcliffe, 2nd by J. Faski. All were in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: D. Sorrentino, Planning Director