



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON
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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Members Donna Resutec and David Hurley, and Alternates Stefanie Cunningham and Bryan Platt

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Chris Todd and Alternate Sulakshana Thanvanthri

STAFF

PRESENT: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Draft nominations for the 2019 Annual Member Awards Program

Chairman Kelly thanked Ms. Houlihan for a great job preparing the nominations to submit to the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce for their annual member awards program. Ms. Houlihan stated the nominations will be submitted to the Chamber upon commission approval and explained the deadline to submit is August 28th.

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (PLATT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENDORSE DRAFT NOMINATION FOR ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARD FOR THE IVY OF ELLINGTON FOR BEAUTIFICATION.

MOVED (PLATT) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENDORSE DRAFT NOMINATION FOR ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARD FOR OAKRIDGE DAIRY AND THE MODERN MILKMAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BEST NEW BUSINESS.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan reported the Rights to Farm Ordinance was passed and is effective. She mentioned that over the past years approximately one million of the two million farmland bond authorization approved by electors in 2007 has been spent permanently protecting about 500 acres. Ms. Houlihan explained the 2007 bond authorization has expired and she's working with the Finance Department to evaluate what is the best financing mechanism to proceed with. Currently, there's one farmland preservation application pending for approximately 260 acres of land owned by Oakridge Dairy. She explained that farmland preservation process is lengthy and takes a minimum of eighteen months.

3. Report: Business Directory / Sustainable Ellington
 - a. Shop Ellington Activity Report – July 2019

Ms. Houlihan stated this is the last report the commission will receive since the commission canceled the service.

- b. 1.4 - Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

Ms. Houlihan reported she spoke with Don DiFiore of DiFiore Ravioli Shop about opening his venue to a Business after Hours event. Initially the commission discussed October 16, 2019, but after discussion October 23, 2019 was chosen. Chairman Kelly suggested canceling the October 9th meeting and have a special meeting on October 23rd at DiFiore's. This event will be geared towards local businesses and officials to have an open forum and opportunity to network. Ms. Houlihan will create a "Save the Date" postcard and mail to businesses.

- c. 1.5 - Promote Sustainable Workforce Development. Discussion was tabled.

4. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs. Nothing to report
5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Chairman Kelly mentioned Flavor of Nawab, the new Indian restaurant located at 4 West Road is open for business and S&S Wall Systems has purchased 40 Lower Butcher Road, and is currently under construction for a new industrial building.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the July 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes.
MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JULY 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.
2. Correspondence:
 - a. Oakridge Times – July 23, 2019
 - b. Request for Certification – Connecticut Economic Development Association's (CEDAS) Best Practices for Economic Development and Land Use.

Ms. Houlihan is working on the CEDAS application and identified at least twenty criteria they meet. In order to be eligible for award, they need a minimum of 70 points and the twenty items appears to be eligible for up to 135 points. The deadline to submit the application is September 15, 2019.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk