

Economic Development Commission Meeting

Tuesday, January 4th 2022 at 5:30pm

Special Meeting

In Person and Via Zoom

Minutes

Call to Order: Brett Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Members in Attendance: Brett Mastroianni, Salvatore Cherenzia, IV, Will Mason, Christopher Anderson, and Emily Lewis.

Members absent: Jennifer Anderson, Christopher Friday, and Stefan Grufstedt

Staff present: Nathan Reichert, PZDO

Public Comment: Jillian Shea from the Connecticut RC&D discussed a marketing and technology intern program available to local small businesses via a USDA funded grant and asked the EDC to help support communications about the program's availability.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: 4 May 21, 1 June 21, 19 Oct 21, 16 Nov 21 meeting minutes were all unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: None

PDZO Report: N. Reichert gave a general report on the steady flow of permit/activity. He submitted his written report electronically to the Board. Several members Chris Anderson, Salvatore Cherenzia IV, and Will Mason all expressed difficulty in getting into their Town email accounts and asked to have IT re-set their accounts.

New Business:

a. FY '23 Budget Request: The Commission discussed its FY'23 budget request. They discussed possible programs initiatives and funding requirements. A website update. Business hospitality events. All Board gathering. Business Open House. Were all discussed as priority items. A discussion about staff time and required work being completed such as agendas, minutes, business site visits, commission communications

and staffing were discussed and an additional request for a part-time staff person was made. A \$7500.00 appropriation request was added to the budget along with a \$2000.00 website refresh appropriation.

a. The Commission approved the FY'23 Budget request

B.15 Operating Expenses - \$4900.00

B.15.01 CT Region / Member Dues - \$2455.00

1. seCTer dues

2. Chamber of Commerce Eastern Connecticut

3. Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce

B.15.02 Part Time EDC coordinator - \$7500.00

B.15.03 Website Reboot - \$2000.00

(Moved by Mason, 2nd by Mastroianni, Unanimous affirmative vote)

b. The Commission approved a \$290.00 expense to join the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and add an equal amount to the FY23 membership and dues request.

(Moved by Cherenzia 2nd by Lewis Unanimous affirmative vote)

b. Election of Officers for 2022

a. Chair – Salvatore Cherenzia IV (Moved by Mastroianni 2nd by Anderson, Unanimous affirmative vote)

b. Vice-Chair - Chris Anderson (Moved by Cherenzia, 2nd by Lewis, Unanimous affirmative vote)

c. Secretary – Emily Lewis (Moved by Cherenzia, 2nd by Anderson, Unanimous affirmative vote)

d. Treasurer – William Mason (Moved by Mastroianni, 2nd by Cherenzia, Unanimous affirmative vote)

Old Business:

a. North Stonington Works: Mastroianni provided an update on the program. A discussion followed concerning communication, marketing, and implementation. A combination of email and in-person contacts will be implemented to help market the program.

b. Business Operational and Infrastructure Grant Program: Mastroianni provided an update on the program. The implementation language needs further revision, the Board members will review the questions provided by staff and bring forward possible revisions at the next meeting. A \$100,000.00 earmark in the COVID funds has passed the Board of Selectman. The appropriation requires approval with the Board of Finance and ultimately a Town Meeting. It is anticipated that the nearest Town Meeting is in March of 2022. The Commission will work with the Selectman, the Board of Finance and Staff to perfect the programs regulations.

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm (Moved by Cherenzia 2nd by Mastroianni, Unanimous Affirmative vote).

Next EDC meeting is schedule on February 1st 2022 at 5:30p via Hybrid in person and Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathan Reichert