

EDC REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 5:30pm
Via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order: Chairman, Brett Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

Members in Attendance: Brett Mastroianni, Nicole Porter, Jennifer Dayton, Will Mason (arrived 6:11), Paul Simonds, Salvatore Cherenzia, Jennifer Strunk (alternate).

Members Absent: Anthony Mazzella (alternate), Stefan Grufstedt.

Staff Present: Juliet Hodge, PDZO

Public Present: Nita Kincaid, Selectman, Bob Carlson, Selectman.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Joint Meeting w/ PZC and Minutes of the May 19, 2020 Regular EDC Meeting were both approved as submitted.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Treasurer's Report: J. Hodge presented the most recent income and expense report. B. Mastroianni has not submitted several invoices yet. The Commission reviewed with no changes.

PDZO Report: Discussion surrounding J. Hodge assisting town businesses with their applications to reopen. Red Onion is due to reopen at their new location the week of June 8th. Shunock Brewery is working on outdoor seating. J. Hodge also reported that the agreement between Mystic Pizza II, Christie Landscaping and AJ's Landscaping to reconfigure their parcels to resolve a long-standing enforcement matter has been finalized. Commission asked questions about the status of the Facilities Plan for water and sewer extension and the status of the composting facility.

New Business

Directional Signage: There was a brief discussion regarding the estimated cost of the signs and the need to defer this expenditure approval to next year's budget as there would not be enough time in this fiscal year to approve, order and receive the signs.

Old Business

Draft EDC Strategic Plan: J. Hodge walked Commission members through the draft EDC Strategic Plan document. Members had no proposed changes, but S. Cherenzia suggested that the commission spend more time during an upcoming meeting discussing it.

Reopening Initiatives and Requirements: Most local restaurants have opened with a plan for outdoor dining. Limited capacity indoor dining will start on June 20th. The Commission discussed the "Buy Local, Win Local" gift certificate initiative. The Commission approved a \$600 expenditure to purchase the gift certificates at a past meeting. J. Hodge will work with J. Strunk and J. Dayton to create an attractive package for the gift certificates. N. Porter will contact and research how the Westerly Chamber of Commerce runs their local business gift certificates.

Balance of EDC Funds and proposed future spending: There was a discussion of several different ideas regarding what to do with left-over funds this fiscal year but also what to focus on for next fiscal year's budget. J. Dayton proposed and gave support for a market analysis to gain insight on what our efforts should be focused on for the future. Support was also given by a few members for drawings/renderings of what 'could be' for existing vacant properties in town. Brett reviewed the radio add the EDC sponsored and feedback was given to tweak the voice a bit.

Motion made and seconded (S. Cherenzia / J. Dayton) to adjourn at 6:37 pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

Next regular meeting is June 16, 2020 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Porter & Juliet Hodge