



**SPECIAL
EDC MEETING**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017 AT 5:15 PM
TOWN OFFICES AT HOLLY GREEN PLAZA

MINUTES

B. Mastroianni called the Meeting of the EDC to order at 5:32pm. Full quorum present.

Members in Attendance were: *B. Mastroianni, D. Tillman-Brown, Asa Palmer, Toula Balestracci, and Paul Simonds*

Members absent: *D. Isom, G. Tattersall and Sam Cherenzia,*

Staff present: *J. Hodge, PDZO*

Public in attendance: Mike Urgo, Nita Kincaid, and Bob Carlson

Public Comments: Mike Urgo spoke about the future uses of the Old Fire House, High School/Middle School, and Town Hall. Would like to have some renderings done to better illustrate some of the ideas for re-use. Discussed the need for funding to rehab the old Fire House. One idea would be to sell the Holly Green office. Urgo to meet with the Fire Department to discuss. B. Mastroianni wanted to incorporate the Senior Center into the building to share with the Recreation Department, but this may not be possible if the Fire Dept. still need storage space in old building.

M. Urgo mentioned that the WPCA will meet this month and that J. Hodge will be leading the effort to reignite discussions with Stonington about the Sewer Tie-in. Looking into Federal Funding.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made and seconded (P. Simonds/B. Mastroianni) to approve the November minutes with corrections discussed concerning the last few lines. Vote Yes 2 Abstain 4 - Motion carries

Treasurer Report:

Discussed the fact that we are still being charged for the Cell Phone that is not being used. M. Urgo to look into this. D. Tillman-Brown suggested that we use a service that forwards calls to the land-use office and then my personal cell if I do not pick up the EDC Cell.

Election of Officers

B. Mastroianni- Chairman ; D. Isom – Vice Chair; D. Tillman-Brown – Treasurer; T. Balestracci – Secretary

Motion made and seconded (D. Tillman-Brown/P. Simonds) to approve slate. Motion Carries 5:0

New Business

- Discussion continues from last month re: creating a Year-round Farmers Market and planning an open forum for farmers to discuss the idea and gauge the interest level. Recent discussions with Terra Firma Farm – informed about USDA grants available for creating farmer's markets. We need funding and a location that would work year-round. Goal of at least 20 local vendors. Guest vendors would pay a fee to have a table. Discussed allowing out of town vendors and holding the market in the early evening. There was consensus that the Board of Directors for any Farmers Market needed to be volunteer and not made up of the vendors themselves.

ACTION: Create invitation for farmers to attend a workshop in early February – 5pm time slot. A. Palmer and D. Tillman-Brown to assist J. Hodge with this initiative. Brett suggested having a brainstorming session with local farmers first at the next meeting.

- J. Hodge to begin process of hosting an Economic Development Training Session in March – with CERC

and CEDAS. Suggested locations: Lake of Isles, Wheeler Library (with beer/wine and food).

- PDZO Report
- M. Urgo suggested that the EDC meet 2x month. EDC prefers to have special meetings when necessary to tackle an issue rather than meeting twice each month. Discussion followed. J. Hodge suggested forming subcommittees such as one that focuses on events, one that focuses on recruiting new business to town and business visitation. Another sub-committee could focus on Action Plan implementation.
- Discussion about creating maps showing the vacant parcels in town and the utilities etc.
- J. Hodge mentioned wanting to host Neighborhood Meetings again to discuss progress on POCD.
- J. Hodge emailed MPTN to try and set up a meeting with the new Selectmen and Brett.

Motion to Adjourn made and seconded (D. Tillman-Brown/A. Palmer) to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. Motion carried 5:0

Next Meeting is the Regular meeting on January 18, 2018 at 5:15pm Town Offices Holly Green Plaza.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juliet Hodge

Juliet Hodge, PDZO