



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK Economic Development Commission

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475
Telephone (860) 395-3139 • FAX (860) 395-3125

David Prendergast, Chair
Kacie Costello Hand, Vice Chair
Sandra Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer

Judy Ganswindt
Nick Prevost
Elizabeth Swenson
Susan Quish
Michael Bender, Alternate
Erica Cosenza, Alternate

MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, David Prendergast called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: David Prendergast, Kacie Costello Hand, Judy Ganswindt, Nick Prevost, Susan Quish, Elizabeth Swenson, Erica Cosenza, Michael Bender - Virtual

Members absent: Sandra Roberts

Staff: Jennifer Donahue, Director of Economic Development & Communications

Sarah Makowicki, Clerk

Lisa Strickland, Clerk

III. PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT – None

IV. GUESTS – Tyler Lyman- Max's Place LLC, Dave Ziakes – Engineer - Virtual, Scott Hesketh – Traffic Dept – Virtual

V. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Donahue gave an update on the result of including an insert with the Personal Property Declarations giving businesses an opportunity to sign up to receive the ED newsletter; received 72 responses out of 2000. She also discussed the plans for the upcoming public forum on Mariner's Way noting that the consultants are finishing up the market analysis and moving on to the economic opportunity study. Focus groups and interviews with stakeholders, including business and property owners in the study area have been completed. Mr. Prevost asked if town consider buying 2 parcels remediate and flip.

Ms. Donahue also noted that a new exhibitor is needed for the art hallway from January through April with two more needed to finish out the year. She asked for suggestions.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. October 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of October 12, 2023 as presented. **MADE** by S. Quish **SECONDED** by E. Cosenza; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D.Prendergast, J.Ganswindt, E.Swenson, M.Bender, S. Quish, E. Cosenza; **ABSTAINING:** N.Prevost, K.Costello Hand; **OPPOSED:** None.
APPROVED: 6-2-0

B. Correspondence & Announcements

Ms. Donahue reported that she had received email correspondence from the first selectman regarding a potential walkway from the train station to the industrial parkway. This will not happen; however, River Valley Transit has expanded its route to address going to industrial park.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Fall Visitor Video Promotion Update – completed, now focusing on Taste of Christmas
- B. Main Street & Route 1 Inventory Update – still working on
- C. Microsite Progress Update – will focus on more in January
- D. Special Events Updates (Starlight Festival, Celebrate Saybrook) – first 2 Fridays December, stores on Main Street open till 9 pm; December 3-9- Elf Hunt; Starlight Festival December 2nd, early bird registration for Celebrate Saybrook ends on December 31st
- E. Budget FY 2025 Finalization – Ms. Donahue spoke with the finance director regarding increase of her hours; up to 34 hours is a possibility, anything over 34 hours would trigger benefits; Bump up Dues/Fees from \$350 to \$750; Bump up Advertising by 5K and change name to Marketing Development; Prioritize Main Street small projects, public improvements use the budget within time period, get a couple of volunteers for projects; encourage members to attend budget request meeting. Motion to accept changes in the budget made by K.Costello Hand, Second J.Ganswindt.

MOTION to accept suggested changes to the budget. **MADE** by K. Costello Hand **SECONDED** by J. Ganswindt; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D.Prendergast, J.Ganswindt, E.Swenson, M.Bender, S. Quish, E. Cosenza; N.Prevost, K.Costello Hand **ABSTAINING:** None; **OPPOSED:** None.
APPROVED: 8-0-0

- F. Gathering of Land Use Committee Update – Mariner’s Way – this was well attended and feedback was provided

VIII. ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS - none

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation by Max’s Place re: Zoning Petition to Amend the Drive-through Regulations
Mr. Lyman detailed their objections to the new proposed drive-through regulations including that regulations are the same for stand-alone sites as well as shopping centers.

After the guests left, commissioners discussed whether to make recommendations to the Zoning Commission based on the presentation. N.Prevost volunteered to draft a letter for the commissioner's review referencing the EDC's concerns with the proposed new regulation

- B. Distribution & Review of Updated Plan of Conservation & Development – was distributed
- C. Strategic Planning & Planning for ARPA Grant Expenditures 2024 – tabled until December

X. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR** – None.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of Thursday November 9, 2023 until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting of the Economic Development Commission on December 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, second-floor conference room; **MADE** by N. Prevost; **SECONDED** by J. Ganswindt; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** D.Prendergast, J.Ganswindt, E.Swenson, M.Bender, S. Quish, E. Cosenza, N.Prevost, K.Costello Hand; **ABSTAINING:** None; **OPPOSED:** None. **APPROVED:** 8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Makowicki
Recording Clerk