

Stafford Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
Veterans Room, Town Hall
August 1, 2017, 6:30 PM

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STAFFORD, CT

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TOWN CLERK

1. Call meeting to order and establish a quorum.
A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by Chairman Andra Smith. Present were members Stephen Squire, Sal Titus, Marion Hine and Andra Smith. Dan Burnett-Pollock was absent.
2. Review minutes from meetings of 6/6/17 and 6/13/17.
By motion of Mr. Titus, seconded by Mr. Squire, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting minutes from 6/6/17 and 6/13/17.
3. Discuss progress with business questionnaire.
 - a) Surveys update - Mrs. Smith reported that she entered all of the paper surveys into Survey Monkey. The next step is to have the analysis of the results compiled, saved and printed so we can share with the Selectmen, various commissions, new grant writer, etc. Mrs. Smith will obtain the analyzed results and get them to the rest of the commission for these purposes. These survey results will be useful for the Town Plan/Vision (item 5 below) since they show the input from town businesses and residents.
 - b) Local Magazine and North Central News – Mrs. Smith told the group that an author had written an article about all the wonderful ways to spend summer in Stafford. Mrs. Hine suggested reaching out to the author to see if she would be interested in doing a recurring article for each upcoming season. Mrs. Smith will try to track the author down.
4. Videographer update from Mr. Squire.
Mr. Squire said that Jeremy White's quote was \$14,000 and on top of this, the Selectman now have the Stafford Today videos happening. It was discussed among the group that this was way too much for the EDC to afford, and until the EDC had a website to post the video this project didn't really make sense. This item will be tabled for now and instead Mr. Titus is going to follow up with the First Selectman about getting the "discover Stafford" website up based on the template that former member, Bruce Cartier, had provided to the webmaster.
5. Stafford Town Plan/Vision – Update from Mr. Titus
Mr. Titus explained that he showed the Don Poland economic/town report and Glastonbury, CT's vision plan to the Citizens Advisory Committee. Next, he will show the Selectmen how creating the plan/vision is the next step needed according to the Don Poland economic report. Mr. Titus needs to ask the Selectmen how the EDC should approach bringing this concept to fruition via the commissions, boards and ultimately the town residents.

6. Business Award and Meet & Greet.

The EDC discussed the following agenda for the next meeting: (1) Don Poland town report and survey monkey results (2) Vision Plan as the next step, and (3) Awards. Mr. Titus suggested this be a twice yearly event (January/June or July). Mr. Titus will reach out to TTM and Mr. Buckland regarding sponsorship and location.

7. Fallfest.

Mr. Titus didn't have any needs at this point, but it was discussed that the EDC should have a booth, and it would use the booth to have people fill out the vendor applications for Winterfest.

8. Tax Incentive Ordinance Adoption.

Mrs. Smith had learned from the First Selectman that a new state law was passed about incentives, so she will get a copy from him and incorporate any changes needed into the draft ordinance before the EDC presents to the BOS. Mr. Squire will email the draft to Mrs. Smith.

9. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Businesses.

Mr. Titus will plan the next one for Hairy Karry's Barbershop and Bella Ness for August 11. Mrs. Smith will send Mr. Titus the template invitations and the emails of the various elected officials that had been invited to the prior one in July.

10. Adjournment.

By motion of Mr. Squire and seconded by Mr. Titus, the Commission unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:28pm

Respectfully submitted,



Andra Smith