

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
April 25, 2022**

Minutes

A meeting of the East Granby Economic Development Commission was held via Zoom on April 25, 2022. Members present when Chairman Paul Thulen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM were Oliver Davis, Paul Oliva, and Todd Zessin. Tom Lally joined the meeting at 6:01 PM and David Iannucci joined at 6:24 PM. Member Kerry Flaherty and Alternate Chick Bistany were absent.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Oliver Davis and seconded by Paul Oliva to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC AND/OR APPLICANT

Dan Barrett of Pond Lane was introduced as a prospective member of the Commission. Austin Gelinis of Newgate Road addressed the Commission regarding the parcels of land currently for sale on South Main Street and his view that they should be purchased by the Town for the purpose of a town green or village center. He has conducted a community survey and will share his research and results with the Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS

- EDC Minutes for March 28, 2022

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

No formal report was issued. Sandra Johnson shared that the Planning & Zoning Commission will be holding a public workshop regarding cannabis on May 24, 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. EDC Personnel Changes: With Gary Haynes no longer employed by the town of East Granby, current plans are to fill the vacancy with two part time positions: Town Planner and Economic Development Director. First Selectwoman Eden Wimpfheimer will be acting as lead contact person during the interim. Shared services with other towns are not likely due to limited capacity.

Tom Lally is now a full member of the Commission in place of Leslie Marques. Dan Barrett is interested in joining the Commission. Paul Thulen will research the current political balance of the Commission in advance of filling additional vacancies.

David Iannucci joined the meeting at 6:24 PM.

B. Chamber Update: The Chamber has been focused on events. At this time, “Chamber Update” will be removed as a regular agenda item and handled as a new item when collaboration is a possibility.

C. Brokers/Realtors & Available Sites/Buildings: Sandra Johnson updated the Commission on a recent business visitation via Zoom with Nufern/Coherent. They are experiencing staffing challenges. Suggestions were made for placement and recruitment solutions including Aerotek in Farmington, warn notices to the Department of Labor, the chemical engineering program at UMASS Amherst, and Belcan in Windsor.

D. Village Center Concept Master Plan: The intent from the Plan of Conservation was to hire a consultant to work for the Town of East Granby on the Village Center Concept Master Plan. In February, \$20,000 was approved from capital funds. Paul Thulen has formed a subcommittee with Tom Lally and Adam Tkaczuk to work on developing a project plan and creating an RFP for consultants. Resources for assistance with the project were mentioned, including CRCOG, CCM, and COST. It is hoped that \$30,000 of additional funding will be available from ARPA for a total of \$50,000.

With the Silverman Group project in process, prompt action on the Village Center Concept Master Plan is essential. However, if the plan is not developed in time, it was suggested that key points be identified as drivers for their site plan and perhaps regarding the current South Main Street properties for sale and/or the possible alignment of East Street with School Street. Utilization of the existing incentive program was mentioned as a potential way to ensure the Silverman Group completes the public portions of the plan in a timely fashion.

E. Business Visitation and Retention: No discussion.

F. Marketing – Articles (LTT Business Spotlight, Etc.): Paul Oliva submitted an article about the new Anchor Eye Care Center for the Spotlight on Small Business. A reminder article regarding the cannabis meeting and recent zone change will be submitted this month and the village center will be submitted for the next edition. The status of the signage being placed by Planning & Zoning for the cannabis public meeting will also be checked on.

G. Incentives and Regulation Changes, Façade Improvement: No discussion.

H. Upcoming Meeting Location: Beginning next month, meetings will resume in person at Town Hall.

I. EGFD Study: No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Oliver Davis and seconded by Paul Oliva at 7:15 PM. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hall
Building and Land Use Administrative Assistant