

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
July 24, 2023 Meeting**

Minutes

A meeting of the East Granby Economic Development Commission was held on Monday, July 24, 2023. Members present when Chairman Paul Thulen called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM were David Iannucci and Paul Oliva, and alternate member Peter Ritter. Kerry Flaherty arrived at 5:33 PM.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Paul Oliva and seconded by Peter Ritter to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 meeting. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried. David Iannucci abstained.

DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC AND/OR APPLICANT – None.

COMMUNICATIONS

- EDC Meeting Minutes for June 2023
- Economic Development Report July 2023
- Sidewalk Connectivity Grant Support Letter

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Kerry Flaherty arrived at 5:33 PM. The monthly activities report regarding Planning & Zoning and Wetlands applications and commercial building permits was reviewed. Paul Thulen noted that there are two applications submitted by the PZC concerning comprehensive legal updates to the zoning regulations and a zone text amendment for the Village Center Zone. Both will have a public hearing on August 8th. Paul Olivia noted that with their recent addition, Barnes Aerospace has doubled the size of their existing building in East Granby and that internationally, the company will also be acquiring MB Aerospace. He questioned whether Barnes had sought a tax incentive through the EDC, but Commission members were not aware of any submitted application.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. **Business Retention & Visitation** – No discussion.
- B. **Manufacturing Workforce Pipeline** – No discussion.
- C. **Village Center Concept Master Plan (Farmers Market, Attraction Wayfinding, Small Business Passport, Sidewalk Grant)**

The East Granby Public Library has been attempting to move forward with the Farmers Market to be held for four weeks in September but has received a poor response from previous participants. The agreed upon minimum number of vendors was set at six, and only two have been confirmed. The search for participants will be widened. Peter Ritter suggested visiting other local markets to invite those participating vendors to East Granby.

The Wayfinding Subcommittee has identified all of East Granby's attractions, determined appropriate signage for each, photographed existing signage throughout town, and reviewed State wayfinding guidelines and a neighboring town's sign plans. The subcommittee will be putting together a package of proposed placements for new signage to present to Town Planner Robin Newton for grant applications.

The Small Business Passport Program is being established for residents to use when doing business with East Granby merchants from August 14th to November 25th. Invitations to participate were sent to over 30 establishments and were followed up with visits and phone calls from EDC members to secure their involvement.

Town Planner Robin Newton has developed a grant proposal for sidewalks that aligns with plans for connectivity and walkability throughout the Village Center. As Chairman of the EDC, Paul Thulen provided a letter of encouragement for the project, which was distributed earlier via e-mail to Commission members. The proposed sidewalk continues the existing sidewalk along Route 20 east from its current end at the Post Office down to the intersection of Route 187 and then onto Route 187 south to the first residence near J&G Restaurant.

D. Develop Niche for East Granby

Paul Oliva questioned whether there would be a fee charged by Google or another entity for East Granby businesses or attractions pinned on any maps appearing on the Town's website. Paul Thulen will seek clarification.

E. Marketing – Articles (Business Spotlight, Etc.)

Paul Thulen suggested an EDC Let's Talk Turkey article that includes information regarding the Village Center, Farmers Market, Wayfinding, and the Small Business Passport Program. David Iannucci commented that it would be better to have more definitive information to share about these initiatives before publicizing them. Mr. Iannucci will reach out to Town Planner Robin Newton for details to include regarding these topics.

F. Incentives and Regulation Changes, Façade Improvement – No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Kerry Flaherty asked about the status of any application for the Silverman property. Paul Thulen replied that he believes that the Silverman Group is currently focusing on projects in other towns and that the most recent progress regarding development in East Granby was the Planning & Zoning Commission's approval of duplexes for Bramble Bush Circle. Kerry Flaherty stated that he feels that the creation of affordable housing is essential in East Granby in order to preserve Fire Department membership, as approximately 50% of the younger volunteers are still living at home and have no entry-level in-town options for housing that they can afford.

A motion was made by Paul Oliva and seconded by Kerry Flaherty to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 PM. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Hall
Building and Land Use Administrative Assistant