

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT  
October 23, 2023 Meeting**

**Minutes**

A meeting of the East Granby Economic Development Commission was held on Monday, October 23, 2023. Members present when Vice Chairman David Iannucci called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM were Tom Lally, Dan Barrett, Paul Oliva, and Todd Zessin and alternate members Brian O'Connor and Peter Ritter.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Paul Oliva and seconded by Tom Lally to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 meeting. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC AND/OR APPLICANT** – None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- EDC Meeting Minutes for August 2023
- Economic Development Report October 2023

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Robin Newton reported on current Economic Development initiatives. The Small Business Passport Program has had a high participation rate so far. The supply of printed passports has run out, so a second order was placed and the program will continue to be promoted. The Welcome to East Granby Sign Fundraiser at Almost Famous Brewing was held earlier in the month and was well attended, with between 80 and 90 people present. Local businesses donated quite a few raffle prizes to support the event. The Town of East Granby “Support Local” web page has been updated to include a list of local businesses by category. It will be further updated with business logos and links to individual websites. Ms. Newton is working on developing Google Maps similar to those created for the available commercial properties and once these are completed, the QR code from the kiosk signage can be linked to the web page.

Commission members asked for details regarding Copart’s current Inland Wetlands application listed on the Activities Report. Robin Newton explained that the application is for two new outdoor parking areas west of the current facility on the site, which will give Copart additional capacity for their inventory. Ms. Newton walked the site last week with a representative from Copart and their engineering firm. One area is already open and was used by the gas company during previous utility work a few years ago. It consists of millings and gravel. The other is a field area that will be mowed; gravel will be used there. Water quality basins will be constructed for both areas. The two areas will not be paved at this time as the processed gravel and millings will slow runoff and provide some infiltration as well. Copart’s online-only business model will not be changing. The public hearing for their Inland Wetlands application took place at the beginning of this month and has been continued to their November meeting. The Planning & Zoning Commission public hearing will open on November 14th. Robin Newton explained that Copart’s previous application to the PZC was for a text amendment and their current application is for a permit to carry out their plans.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Business Retention & Visitation** – Tabled.

**B. Manufacturing Workforce Pipeline** – Discussed after “Marketing” below.

**C. Village Center Concept Master Plan (Farmers Market, Attraction Wayfinding, Small Business Passport)**

The Farmers Market has ended for the year. The multiple types of vendors were well received. Todd Zessin is continuing to work directly with Robin Newton on the Wayfinding project.

**D. Marketing – Articles (Business Spotlight, Etc.)**

David Iannucci submitted an article for “Let’s Talk Turkey” last month and will submit one for the next edition in November. He explained that he researched other outside programs to include, such as Eversource’s EV discussion, and will continue to do so for future articles. Paul Oliva plans to discuss a potential article with the Board of Selectmen to publicize the new stop signs in town.

A discussion was then held regarding the Manufacturing Workforce Pipeline. Brian O’Connor has been working with Paul Thulen on a Business Resources Guide trifold pamphlet to distribute to manufacturers during site visits. He has pulled together a lot of different State program offerings in the areas of mentoring, business plan writing assistance, finding workforce talent, etc. and has also included the Town’s tax and business incentive program within it. Mr. O’Connor will forward the pamphlet to Commission members and will review it to remove any discontinued State programs. He suggested adding this information to the website as well.

**E. Incentives and Regulation Changes, Façade Improvement – Tabled.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment, Tom Lally asked about the financial goal for the Town Sign Fundraiser. Paul Oliva stated that the Board of Selectmen is still exploring corporate sponsorship of the signs. David Iannucci suggested grants as a possible source of funding.

A motion was made by Todd Zessin and seconded by Paul Oliva to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 PM. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Hall  
Building and Land Use Administrative Assistant