

August 2021 Meeting
West Haven Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes, July 21, 2021
5:30 PM City Hall, 355 Main St, West Haven, CT

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Chairman Gallo

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees: E. Slomba, C. Gallo, E. Voss, L. Perry, and S. Williams

Chairman called for a motion to adopt the minutes; the motion was made by E. Slomba and seconded by E. Voss

Public Input:

None

Corrections from last month's minutes: E Slomba clarified that she said she can arrange a tour of the Arts Center Space.

Old Business:

Hidden Gem Project; it was discussed by the chairman for the next article there are three companies she asked to be interviewed; Savin Rock Surf Shop; Savin Rock Creamery and Prospect Beach Deli. Madame Chair has been to all of the shops, she wrote out questions and she is waiting for two of the three businesses to get back to her. (The questions were provided by L. Perry.)

Because of concern the articles would be too long for The Voice, L. Perry thought of cutting back to two businesses the next month. Possibly add pictures. E. Slomba said it would be nice if we write 250 words. E. Voss said that's a lot. It needs to be even shorter. C. Gallo will ask Bill how much space we are allotted.

Branding and Marketing: E. Slomba said she tested the marketing phrase on a few people. So far the phrase has been well receive.

Advance CT workshop: the workshop was to be held on June 3rd of last year 2020.

A new workshop will be in the round table forum style. L. Perry said we can make it state wide, city wide and have discussion on what is needed. The EDC can create and send a survey out to the local businesses per E. Voss. Have the businesses fill out the survey and the EDC can get a sense of their concerns.

The Roundtable - to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and Sustainable CT along with EDC, taking the lead. E. Slomba suggested marketing the idea so no one will feel left out. The idea of hosting the RT in early September. Send invites out to COC members.

EDC will write up a questionnaire and have the Chamber of Commerce involved in the survey. E. Voss will speak to the Chamber of Commerce, for a list of email addresses. Also, E. Voss will

speak to Apps and/or Off Shore restaurants about having a space for a special meeting to draft the survey.

New business: Christopher Soto, P&Z updates

Latest projects:

Chick's building was sold. The city is meeting with the residents in the area on Beach Street about elevating the street. The target date is June of 2022. Chick's may open before then.

Debonair Motel, the goal is to tear it down and put a building there with approximately ten apartments or lodging space. These units will have an ocean view.

The Haven, local agreement was discussed on taxes collected, the site, and city permits. This open conversation has begun again. We should see more activity in the coming months. There is still no target date for them to open at this time. But the conversation with the city will continue.

Enthone - expansion 239-245 Front Street they will bring a retail and processing facility in West Haven. They will look to get their permit on August 10th.

Truffle Company LLC - is expanding 139-145 Front Street. They plan to meet with P&Z in August.

The Old Staple's site is under demolition and will be applying for permits from the city. It will be like the Pilot in Milford.

Savin Rock Parkkade -has been sold. No plans at this time

Lender's Building on the Post Road - Chris Soto did not have an update. He will look into it and report back to the EDC at a later date

Conference Center - in the phase of a proposal, more to come

291 Campbell Ave. - add retail shops on the ground floor and apartments above. The city has to consider that's a flooding zone. Mantilia property - P&Z needs to meet with the owners

E. Slomba asked C. Soto what are his thoughts on "Miles of Shore and So Much More" for the city's slogan the EDC came up with. He said he honestly didn't know. But he said for the meeting with the businesses we should bring in Genie and RECS, Advance CT, Mark from CDA, ACORN Development, UNH, Enthone, the Chick's owner and realtors, these are all key folks to invite to the meeting. ACORN may be able to allow us to use their space for the meeting

Chris Soto suggested using survey monkey to do the survey.

Other:

E. Slomba stated that the boat parade was nice. . Also, E. Slomba said the sandcastle competition was nice. Fun stuff on the beach. C. Gallo said she will like to see food carts on the board walk.

Motion made by L. Perry to adjourn, seconded by E. Slomba 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scotti Williams