

West Haven Economic Development Commission Minutes.

Wed, Oct 8, 2025

EDC Attending: Lalani Perry, Chair; Frederick Brown, Vice Chair; Desmond St. Claire, Treasurer; Elinor Slomba, Secretary; Andy Weinstein, Commissioner

Called to order at 6:10pm. Pledge of Allegiance

Also present and participating in the discussion: Kathy Hebert, General Public; Kathleen Krolak, City of West Haven Economic Development Office

1. Economic Development Updates

Kathleen Krolak gave an update on current projects:

- Paving & crosswalks
 - Near the VA Hospital
 - Grant-driven
- Molloy School
 - Conversion to a Community Center underway
 - Senior Center is moving there
 - Remaining Savin Rock Museum collection to be housed there
- Former Masonic Temple - 304 Center St.
 - Getting the “vanilla box” treatment to finish and open
 - No formal input or advisement from the arts community
 - Will continue to be City-owned & operated
 - No managing organization or strategic partners have been announced
 - Path to schedule and access the space is unclear
- Golf Course
 - Most likely site will be near the bocce courts
 - To be discussed at Land Trust Meeting Tues Night Oct 16 alongside a talk on native plantings
- Morse Park improvements
 - The Grind, a baseball coaching company to manage
 - In partnership with the City
- The Kelsey
 - Restaurant at former Conference Center site
 - City will continue to own and lease it out
 - Construction to be completed by May 2026
- Morse Park improvements
 - The Grind, a baseball coaching company to manage
 - In partnership with the City

Comments

- Farmers Market is wrapping up its 2025 season

- Nice to see additional activity, such as Paw-Looza and Safety Expo
- Ecopark fall plantings are underway & signage has been picked out

Questions

- Old Forest Theater site?
 - Has buildings on it
 - owner wants to sell whole portfolio as an undeveloped site
 - Those two things don't go together
- St Lawrence Church?
 - To date, no site plan application's been submitted
- Stiles School?
 - Sale is complete
 - New owner is Ideal Group - transit-oriented housing planned
- Marginal Drive?
 - Cameras installed
 - They seem to be limiting the dumping in that area

2. Old Business

- No minutes to approve from September
- Scheduling confusion seems to be the norm
- Is the Commission being utilized by the City? Consensus is 'No.'

3. New Business

- **Motion #1:** to move meeting back to 1st Wed of the month, made by Chair, 2nd by Andy
 - Amended to begin Jan 2026
 - Vote: 4Y 0N 1A - PASSED non-unanimously
- **Motion #2:** to skip the December meeting, made by Chair, 2nd by Andy
 - Vote: 4Y 0N 1A - PASSED non-unanimously
- **Restaurant Week**
 - Consensus is that we should repeat, build on 1st year's efforts
 - Move to May/June may get more people
 - Perhaps combine with an art or culture element, such as live music (buskers) outside each participating restaurant
 - To be discussed more next month
- Desmond is requesting regular meetings with Steve Fontana
- Commission members would like to attend ribbon cuttings. Requested that Kathleen look into a workflow with the Mayor's Office to inform/invite.

3. Announcements

- Allingtown Tree Lighting is Dec 6 at 530pm
- Teach Kids Music having a fundraiser at Joey C's in Stratford

- West Haven Open Studios weekend Oct 11-12 at two sites, 14 Gilbert St & 13 Anderson Ave.

Adjourned at 715pm

Next Meeting to be held November 12