

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

November 2, 2022

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Theresa Avey called the regular meeting of the Newington Economic Development Commission to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

III. **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present

Chairman Theresa Avey
Commissioner Dana Havens
Commissioner Jerilyn Nagel
Commissioner Mari Beatrice

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Clifford Stamm

IV. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A. Vice President

Chairman Avey nominated Commissioner Havens, seconded by Commissioner Beatrice. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, with four voting YEA.

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Havens moved to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nagel. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, with four voting YEA.

VI. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (Speakers limited to two minutes.)

None

Theresa Avey
Town Clerk

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
NEWINGTON, CT
2022 NOV - 8 AM 10:41

VII. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Chairman Avey reported that the Chamber had several grand openings, ribbon cutting ceremonies. The most recent at Cross Fit on Fenn Road, located at the former Physical therapy/Laundromat building.

The Chamber is definitely going to do the Waterfall Festival again next year since it was a great success. They will come up with a new date in September or October of 2023.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Beautification Committee

The flags are up and the merchants who have the pots have been keeping up with the seasons, putting fall plants into them.

Commissioner Havens reported that a town in Massachusetts have flags with a stanchion on the top and the bottom. They sell them, so the Commission could have Fall in Love with Newington and then on the bottom, it would have the name of the company that had purchased the flag. This is used as a fund raiser. The flags cost about \$2.20, including the hardware and the charge to the purchaser is \$6.50 per year. The town puts them up twice, putting up a summer one and a winter one. This can be adjusted. Based on information from the town, the first year they had about 20 participants and the following year it doubled indicating that it was well received by the businesses. The regulations would have to be checked to see if it is possible to be used as a fund raiser for the beautification committee, and the proceeds could be used for purchases towards beautifying the town. If the funds cannot be used for Economic Development Committee they could possibly be used as a fund raiser for Human Services.

Commissioner Nagel suggested that this could be coordinated with the Chamber of Commerce to see if the business members of the Chamber would be interested in purchasing a flag. Economic Development would be responsible for designing the flag and the selling of them, gathering the funds to put to the beautification committee or splitting it between the beautification committee and Human Services or the Library.

Chairman Avey requested that this information be e-mailed to the members of the Commission for review and to look into doing this as a fund raising project.

The regulations would have to be reviewed to see if this is a project that would be allowed under the regulations from the town, and it was suggested that this idea might be submitted to the Town Attorney for his review.

Commissioner Nagel questioned if this was a project that was already being done in West Hartford to go with the animals that were posted throughout the town center. Community Service and businesses can buy a cow and decorate it. That might be a charitable organization that is behind the purchase, not the town itself. This is an area that can be explored also.

The Commission decided to determine if this was a project that they could do, and after that, if it was possible, they could decide on the budget for it, the amount of money involved in doing this, and the presentation to the town.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Speakers limited to two minutes.)

None

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The members of the Commission expressed their pleasure that they were finally able to have a meeting to discuss future projects for the Commission.

Chairman Avey advised the Commission that Renata Bertotti has resigned her position as Town Planner and her last day is December 2nd. Thanks to Renata for being the liaison for the EDC.

Renata Bertotti indicated that she will be leaving to go to UConn where she is going to be teaching Graduate Planning class, which she is looking forward to. Family in Europe has made the separation difficult and this opportunity will allow her to spend more time there and this new job has afforded her the option of doing that.

Renata indicated to the Commission that the process in town must be eased when certain uses that are impact appropriate, a restaurant that has a certain number of seats that is not a huge restaurant, a business that is not bringing in many cars, these should not go through three months of hurdles, public hearings in order to get permitted.

Staffing in the Planning Office will be difficult until sufficient staffing levels are reached to take on all of the work, but the work is important, and it should be continued.

Part of the reason many municipalities are not getting the available grants is because there has not been planning and the towns are not ready.

Newington does not want to be the community that is perceived as being difficult to deal with for new developments.

Commissioner Nagel told the Commission that if you Google this Commission, the response is that it is closed, not temporarily, permanently. Communication is very important and this should be changed.

Renata indicated that it was a pleasure dealing with this Commission, and also that she is excited about the new position, the challenge of it. She enjoyed many people on the boards and commissions over her time here and she had a good experience here.

XII. ADJOURN

Commissioner Havens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nagel. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norine Addis".

Norine Addis,
Recording Secretary