

GOSHEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2022 6 – 7:00 PM

In Person and Zoom

PRESENT: Peter Kujawski (alternate), William Commerford, Anne Green, Heidi Koenig. **ZOOM:** Scott Olson, Todd Carusillo, Audrey Blondin. **ABSENT:** Dr. Jeff Damiano, Neal White. **RESIGNED:** Clint Thorn.

CALL TO ORDER: Scott Olson called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Anne Green and seconded by Heidi Koenig to approve March 28, 2022 minutes. It was voted to accept the motion. Motion carries.

WELCOME: Welcome to Neal White. Neal is a local business and municipal lawyer and is filling Clint Thorn's spot. Clint Thorn resigned after 1.5 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Audrey Blondin discussed 2 items. 1.) She spoke to Maria Horn regarding a bill which passed the House and is now in the Senate; if passed, will then go to the Governor to sign. This bill will allow a permanent law in CT to have municipal meetings on zoom as well as in person moving forward. Scott asked for the bill # and who wrote it. Audrey will find out and send this information to him. 2.) Electric charging stations for cars would be good to have in Goshen. Audrey asked if this would be something for the EDC to discuss. It would be a great enhancement for EDC in the town to promote tourism. Scott will discuss with D.J. Murphy, EDC in Litchfield and bring back information to our commission.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Application for a regulation to allow for a full time farm store has been received by P & Z and passed to the Goshen Agricultural Council . Based on information from the Agricultural Council, there was unanimous support for the business. There have been two meetings held regarding the regulation proposal. Several people came forward and presented their concerns. All seemed to be on the same page when the vote was made. 2. Scott gave an update on BAC status of Altice bringing fiber network into Goshen. Progress has stopped due to lack of communication from Altice. It is still a project moving forward. Fiber is currently being strung in neighboring towns (Litchfield and Torrington). Peter spoke of PURA having an outstanding matter that is docketed regarding Altice's response to customers. At the moment Altice activities with customer service is under review. Report is due at the end of May and at that time we will know more. This could be the reason for lack of communication. Anne stated that Esme Lombard (Sr. Director, Policy and Government Affairs for CT) was involved prior to COVID and has been a good communicator keeping all informed. 3. Business Sign regulations within Goshen. Last P & Z meeting Don Wilkes (Chair) asked EDC for more clarification regarding business signs. Scott not clear as to whether the questionnaires went out yet to local businesses. Ann spoke to Amy (GBC) who felt the questionnaire was too long (8 questions) and came up with 3 questions. Ann has not yet heard back if the board sent them out. Amy visited 6 -7 businesses regarding signs and they appeared happy with signs, but stated they needed more staff. Ann will talk with Amy further. Scott has a concern regarding businesses responding this way. He is to report to P & Z with a detailed proposal next meeting. Scott will let P & Z know that more time is needed to gather more information before a proposal is presented.

NEW BUSINESS: Scott discussed a new idea – seek out and invite local businesses to our EDC meetings for open discussion on issues they encounter and how we can assist them. Scott would like this to start next meeting. Scott has asked Bill and Heidi to reach out to 3 local businesses and invite them to our next meeting. Both agreed. Anne spoke of Lakeville Interiors (at Goshen traffic circle) as someone we could invite. Scott spoke of a possible new business out of a house on Sharon Turnpike (showroom for bedding and mattresses). We could find out the issues they are encountering as they start up a business. Todd discussed inviting Vance Taylor of Plymouth EDC to one of our meetings, as he is a valuable person to communicate with. Todd will send his contact information to Scott. Scott has spoken with him in the past.

Ann discussed an update on a brochure which was started years ago – Steps for a Business interested in Goshen - How to Start. It was submitted to Barbara and Virginia in the town office and Ann is awaiting approval and will discuss at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM in a motion by Heidi Koenig and seconded by Anne Green.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MARIE BATE

Marie Bate

COMMISSION CLERK

Received April 28, 2022 @ 12:44 PM
Attest *Barbara Z. Brun*
Goshen Town Clerk