

GOSHEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

June 27, 2022 6 – 7:00 PM

In Person and Zoom

PRESENT: Scott Olson, Anne Green, Heidi Koenig, Dr. Jeff Damiano (Alternate), Neal White. **ZOOM:** Marie Bate, Henrietta Horvay **ABSENT:** William Commerford, Peter Kujawski (Alternate) **GUESTS:** Joe Rocco/Rocco Carting Inc., Paul Collins/Recycling Coordinator – Goshen, Leya Edison (Alternate) P&Z, Amy Breakell.

CALL TO ORDER: Scott Olson called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Heidi Koenig and seconded by Anne Green to approve May 24, 2022 special meeting minutes. It was voted to accept the motion. Motion carries.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Scott had reached out to Anita/Milk and Honey Grill to see why sign was not up as discussed at last meeting. Scott read email he received from Anita who stated that she had spoken to Chris Saunders/GHT about putting in a sign to overhang the stone wall. He thought it was a great idea, but has to pass it through GHT. She is awaiting an answer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scott discussed Richard Weigold and Northern Farm and Forestry withdrawal of application. Richard did have some resistance from some Ag Council Members initially, but they did vote to endorse his application. Richard then became aware of emails (sent to fellow commissioners) from Leya Edison (Alternate) P&Z commission member. Leya did a google search of Richard and family members. In summation : 1) Richard and his new LLC are located in West Cornwall, 2) His company titled Northern Farm and Forestry was incorporated in Nov. 2021 (he is not incorporated, per Scott), 3) There is no other information on his farming capacities or affiliation and we have seen no evidence that he has any affiliation or contracts with any legitimate agricultural enterprise within the town of Goshen. 4) There is no information on several companies housed in his store Weigold Floor Covering in Torrington. 5) His basic employment is a Real Estate Broker, with secondary designation of Home Improvement Contractor, but he is not a farmer (per Scott, he comes from a long line of dairy farmers). Some of her sources were unverifiable and had no bearing on his application. Leya was invited to this meeting; arrived when discussion was over. Scott stated that her actions were detrimental to the economic development of Goshen. Richard came to the EDC in good faith and due to this intrusion, he withdrew.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Scott presented for **Chris Saunders of GHT** as he could not attend. Discussion was regarding funding to pave at the Village Market Place. Chris is looking for funding through grants and needed a letter of support from EDC. Chris needed the letter right away (3 days prior to this meeting). Scott wanted to discuss with the commission first. Commission members felt that in the future it would be OK for Scott to make the decision.

company and covers this entire area, rates keep increasing and the people have no other choices. He is cheaper and could give people another option. He does residential trash pickup, dumpster rentals and will help the residents in any way he can. He has customers in Watertown, Oakville and Middlebury. He stated they go out of their way for people (even bringing the cans in for those who are only here on the weekends). He serves business facilities and residents. He does not recycle. Joe would need a spot here in Goshen for his trucks as he gets more customers. Scott would like to help him out.

Henrietta Horvay asked if he had only one rate, as she is a senior and only has a small bag a week. He does have a senior discount. Henrietta mentioned that there were a lot of seniors in town in which she could convey this information to. She will call on Wednesday and speak to Joanne (his wife) regarding details and present to seniors when they meet next.

Leya Edison stated that she changed to Rocco Carting Inc. for her trash removal and is in favor.

C. Paul Collins/Recycling Coordinator – Goshen, 12 Dresden Court East. Introductory discussion regarding electric car charging stations at Town Hall. Paul spoke of how this could be beneficial to Goshen and create revenue. It would be a pay as you go service. He gave a brief history of electric cars (he has one). He also reviewed different levels and voltage required for the chargers, as well as time it takes to charge at each level. He spoke of who the customers might be who would use the charger (tourists, renters and leaf peepers, as well as locals). There are good incentives from Eversource (\$150,000) and from Sustainable CT. No pricing has been determined yet. He also spoke of the steps to market this and how to get the town involved. He mentioned you pay 31-41 cents/kilowatt. It was noted that Canaan has a lot of charging stations, but not many around here.

Amy Breakell of 16 North Street asked if the stations had to be at Town Hall. Paul explained that they did in order to receive the incentives.

Anne Green asked if Sustainable CT used volunteers or crowd funding. Paul said they use a company. Anne also asked if other towns are doing this. Paul said Kent is.

Scott explained that the EDC can't raise funds. Paul explained that you could if you formed a subcommittee called Friends of EDC. A committee would be made up of appointees.

Henrietta Horvay voiced a concern over Friends of EDC – would a 501C non-profit need to be formed? She stated that we might need to investigate more and get more facts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM in a motion by Heidi Koenig and seconded by Anne Green.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Bate

Marie Bate
Commission Clerk

Received June 28th, 2022, 2:30 PM
Attest Daniel H. Kane
Goshen Town Clerk