

GOSHEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – Minutes

January 25, 2021 -- 7:00

By Zoom Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Anne Green, Chair, Chris Sanders, Clint Thorn, Bill Commerford and Heidi Koenig, Lori Clinton, Commission Clerk

EXCUSED: George Szydlowski, Todd Carusillo

OTHERS: Speaker: Martin Connor, Town Planner and Zoning Enforcement Officer
Guest: Cindy Barrett

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Anne Green called the meeting to order at 7:00. Chris Sanders Moved to change agenda for Martin Connor to speak when he was able to log on.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chris Sanders moved and Clint Thorn seconded to approve the Minutes of December 23, 2020. It was voted to accept the motion; motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A. EDC COVID Economic Business Survey Update:

- The Survey had various recommendations made as well as approved by Bob Valentine.
- The Survey will be available via various options:
 - Online via Goshen Town Website
 - Emailed to Goshen Business Circle
 - Hard copies will be available at Goshen Town Hall
- By the February EDC meeting, we will have an idea as to the response rate.
- It was moved by Chris and seconded by Clint to approve a postal mailing with a maximum of \$100 to local businesses if needed. Motion carried.
- Discussion of other various ways to alert businesses and residents to the survey; Individual phone calls by EDC members, other marketing ideas and assistance Were suggested for getting the word out were suggested.

B. Village Marketplace Update:

- Mr. Sanders indicated that the sale of the Village Marketplace (all but the gas station) should close within two weeks. As integrity of the property is the first priority, a new property management company is working on items to be fixed.
- It was mentioned that the development of the area will be at least a 2 year project: new lighting, signs, parking area to name just a few.

C. EDC working with other Commissions.

Mr. Sanders introduced Martin Connors who presented many possible changes that could make starting a business in Goshen easier. The discussion revolved around current regulations that uses that are approved are listed, and when a public Hearing is currently required. He recommended that the EDC review the Center

Business Zone information, as well as continue to check with residents as to what town people might wish to have in Goshen.

Suggestions for EDC:

- a. Review Torrington's recent change to approving **Small Scale Manufacturing**. This includes store fronts with local craftsmen at work. EDC would advocate for site plan approval over requiring special permits for such businesses.
- b. Review the current approved list and make recommendations for new ones to the P&Z Commission.
- c. Arrange a joint meeting between EDC and P & Z in the near future.

D. There were no new updates on the Affordable Housing Plan.

E. The NY Regional EDC will be meeting next week, and Chris Sanders will be attending.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Next meeting of the **Northwest ConneCT: February Fiber Broadband Check-in Meeting**. February 5, 2021. Open to EDC members as the "Town's Fiber Broadband Team." Chris Sanders will join. Anne will send round the information for others if interesting in joining to listen/participate.
Ben Paletsky *encourages many to Zoom in to this meeting!*

B. Any Other Business: None

C. Election of Officers: Motion to nominated Anne Green to continue as Chair by Chris Sanders, Heidi Koenig seconded. Vote to accept the motion; motion passed.

5. Correspondence: none

6. Public Comment:

Cindy Barrett mentioned that Affordable Housing Plan next meeting will be Feb. 4, 2021 at 9:00am. They are also planning to have some in the evening.

7. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:09 by motion by Chris Sanders and seconded by Clint Thorn.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lori Clinton
Commission Clerk

Lori Clinton *blb*

Received *January 29, 2021* *9:51 A.*
Attest *Barbara K. Bue*
Goshen Town Clerk