

Town of Marlborough



Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2024, 7:00 PM
Marlborough – Richmond Memorial Library

1. Call to Order

Jillian LaCaresse called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

2. Roll Call

Attending the meeting and seated were Jillian LaCaresse, Jeremy Vigneault, Barbara Ferrara, and Mark Paul

Jillian noted that there is an open position for the commission and applications are being accepted to fill the seat.

3. Updates

i. Town Center Properties Update

Jillian updated the group on the following topics:

- The application submitted for a Sewer grant expanding the system to the Marlborough Commons area is approved. The total project is upwards of \$8M and the grant is around \$2 to \$2.5M. The balance will have to be covered by a loan. Should this project move forward there is a discussion of developing the 76 acres of land with housing as part of a long-term plan to expand the downtown area.
- 3 Fellas and Starbucks are progressing, and they still hope to open in April.
- The EV Café is delayed as the plans need to be reviewed.
- Coffee Shop - no updates
- Condominiums on North Main St. – developer continuing to update plans.
- The 96 apartments proposed – plans are also progressing, and the developers are reapplying to zoning with updated plans.

ii. Sustainable CT

Mark Paul provided the group with a brochure from Sustainable CT and an update on the roadmap actions and 2024 Action Overview Worksheet.

We currently have bronze status with 290 points of the 200 points required. Mark noted that we must apply in August 2024 for the Silver status (500 Points). To obtain silver status there are suggested actions to implement as detailed in the worksheet. There is a significant amount of work to do to prepare for the application.

Barbara noted that she is continuing to build the list of businesses in town and their email, website information, and demographic information as well. Mark noted we should see what other towns are doing to gather information.

In summary for Sustainable CT, Jillian and the group are to read the suggested actions and see what we could do. Continue developing the email list of businesses and updates on actions.

4. New Business

i. Local business changes- closings, openings, updates

No report

ii. Hebron/Chamber of Commerce Updates

Jillian and Dave Porter recently met with Hebron's Chamber of Commerce. As part of RHAM we are looking to have a joint Constant Contact account. We are also looking to improve our partnership with Hebron and publish a Newsletter to expand communication and marketing to raise awareness of businesses, events, and opportunities.

iii. CODE and Juneteenth

Jillian recently met with the CODE group (Call on Diversity and Equity) in Hebron and discussed the Juneteenth celebration. Planning events for the day were discussed. It was also mentioned that it would be good to schedule the events in the morning for Hebron and the afternoon for Marlborough.

Jillian also noted we received a grant for a monument for the Century Cemetery to honor those who were not allowed to be buried there in years past. There is estimated to be about 35 people on that list. The monument will be unveiled during the 2024 Juneteenth event.

We are looking for additional events for Juneteenth such as speakers at the Congregational Church due to its historical past and importance in the

town. Also, involvement from local non-profits, businesses, and restaurants to keep folks in town that day.

Jillian mentioned that early planning for Marlborough Day is underway. The location for the event may be the Town Green instead of Blish Park for convenience to the center area. We are looking to promote more involvement from local businesses and vendors than in previous years. We are also looking to coincide with the Lions 5K Run on the same day. It is also the Richmond Memorial Library's 100th Anniversary so maybe there could be something to celebrate that milestone as well. This event is the last Sunday in August so maybe add a focus for kids with a back-to-school theme. Coordination for the day still needs to be worked out.

Jillian would also like to look at a Farmers Market at the Congregational Church as part of the long-term planning in our Sustainable CT initiative. This location is handicap accessible and could support such an event.

Other items for future consideration such as Black Friday and Small Business Saturday could be opportunities to consider.

Mark also said that a Housing Opportunities Commission is being put together. The commission is approved, and a marketing team is being assembled to work on a plan for the town.

5. Old Business

i. [Review additions to EDC webpage \(i.e., mission statement\)](#)

The ordinance for Sustainable CT has been added to the website. It was noted that the EDC should produce a marketing plan for our town. Dave Porter has asked that we review the ordinance and mission statement for the group and provide any updates required.

Key Economic Indicators have been gathered from CT Data – Dave is looking at it and will decide what could be put on the Sustainable website.

Jillian mentioned that Hebron did a study of economic data looking at regional and state data that covered a wide range of topics. We will ask to see the study and see what may be useful to us.

Dave Porter will attend the next meeting to meet the members of EDC and provide updates and review action items. He will also go over how our commission can better partner with the town and how he can better support the EDC as well.

ii. Listserv for local businesses/Updated Business Directory

Barbara is continuing to build the list of the “brick and mortar” businesses. She noted the challenge of gathering information and how businesses do not have websites or current public contact information.

6. Approval of Minutes

Barbara Ferrara made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2024, regular meeting. Jeremy Vigneault seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. Adjournment

Jeremy Vigneault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM. Barbara Ferrara seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Carter
Board Clerk