

Town of Marlborough



Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024, 7:00 PM
Marlborough Senior Center

1. Call to Order & Roll Call/Designation of Alternates

Jillian LaCaresse called the meeting to order at 7:03PM

Attending the meeting and seated were Jillian LaCaresse, Mark Paul, Michael Chotkowski, and Leonard Kaplan (Alt). Barbara Ferrara (Alt) was also in attendance.

Jillian noted that the open position has been filled by Mark Paul as a regular member.

2. Public Comments /Communications

None

3. Updates

i. Town Center Properties Update

Final Inspections for both Starbucks and the Coffee Shop at the Country Barn are being conducted in the next couple of weeks.

No news or updates on Three Fellas.

People are using the Business Directory we received a couple of calls about it this week.

ii. Sustainable CT

Mark Paul provided the group a written update as of April 10, 2024. Included in the package is a 2024 Action Overview Worksheet showing the progress to obtain "Silver" status. As of this report we have 290 of the 500 points required. Numerous actions are in process and will need to focus on those that can be completed in the June time frame. Another sheet in the report detailed the actions and related sub-actions, points, and status of each. Mark asked the members of the group to consider

what support can be provided and the need once aging to focus on achievable items in the short term. Long-term items that will make an impact for the next level are the potential new housing developments and apartments that will increase the town's affordable housing rate which is currently below 2% with a target of 10%.

Mark also noted the upcoming Community Forum "Trash Talk" to be held on April 30, 2024, in the MES Cafeteria. The subject will be Trash and Organic waste and practical solutions or composting.

4. New Business

i. Local business changes- closings, openings, updates

No updates

ii. Hebron/Chamber of Commerce Updates

Jillian continues to work with Hebron's Chamber of Commerce. This will include a joint Constant Contact account. There will be more meetings in the next two weeks to update the plans for improving our partnership with Hebron and the region. A local campaign for promoting and raising awareness of businesses, events, and opportunities is the goal.

5. Old Business

i. CODE and Juneteenth (Saturday, June 15)

Jillian updated the group on the progress in planning the event. Discussions with the Coalition on Diversity and Equity (CoDE) in Hebron have taken place. Scheduled events will be in the morning for Hebron and the afternoon for Marlborough.

Jillian also noted we received a grant from the Hartford Foundation for a memorial bench to be placed in 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.

Speakers at the Congregational Church due to its historical past and importance in the town are being worked on.

The next step in planning is reaching out to local businesses for possible unique events, opportunities, and ways to participate. More to follow in EDC's next meeting scheduled for May 16th.

In addition, Jillian mentioned that early planning for Marlborough Day is underway. We are looking to promote more involvement from local

businesses and vendors than in previous years. More updates and planning to be discussed at EDC's next meeting scheduled for May 16th.

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. Progress this past month has been slow and looking to finish soon as this list will be used for planning and communicating to businesses on opportunities this summer.

6. Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the March 21, 2024, minutes:

- Section 4.3 – Correction: CoDE is the Coalition on Diversity & Equity **not** the Call on Diversity & Equity.
- Section 5.1 – Correction: The ordinance for EDC has been added to the website, **not** the Sustainable CT.

With the corrections noted in the April 18, 2024, minutes, Leonard Kaplan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024, regular meeting. Mark Paul seconded the motion. Michael Chotkowski abstained. The motion passed.

7. Adjournment

Michael Chotkowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM. Leonard Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Carter
Board Clerk