**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**September 2, 2021**

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; R. Davis; W. McEnery; R. Parady; J M. Robidoux
Absent: J. Albuquerque; W. Melon;. J, Stone
Guests: S. Jezek; I. Haines; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

I. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

II. Attendance – Mr. Casner sat Mr. Davis for Mr. Albuquerque..

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner noted one correction to the minutes. He requested "Ms. Smith" be changes to "Ms. Haines" in the second paragraph on page 3.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2021 OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

A. Status Reports

1. EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner recognized Mr. Jezek who noted he is running for First Selectman and stated that many business owners have expressed their concern to him about the potential impact of the state of CT Swingbridge repair project. There was a general discussion regarding adding an informational link to the Town's website which provides regular status reports about the project as well as potential detours. Ms. Zemienieski advised that a direct link to the state's on-line status reports for the project already exists on the Town's website. She noted that the state has committed to posting a 2-week schedule each week during the repair project.

   Mr. Casner reported the following:

   - The owner of the Moodus Lumberyard shopping plaza made a presentation at the last Planning & Zoning Committss (P&Z) meeting regarding an upcoming project and will be requesting approval to subdivide the property.

   - At the same P&Z meeting, the new zoning regulations for the Moodus business area that the joint P&Z and EDC subcommittee worked on were approved.

   - He and Mr. Parady created a new draft of the Town's home occupations regulations and P&Z agreed to review the draft and discuss them at their September 14th public meeting.

2. First Selectman's Update – Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

3. Economic Development Administrator Report – Ms. Haines provided the following report:

- She is currently working on the Fall Celebration which will be held October 2nd and 3rd. Ms. Haines reviewed a partial list of signature events.

- The next event she will be working on is the Winter Holiday Stroll in December.

Ms. Haines responded to several questions from the Commissioners.

4. EDC/PZC Sub-Committees

   a. Moodus Center/Town Street South the group – Possible New Regulations - Mr. Casner reported on this item during his EDC Chairman's update report and his comments are covered in the minutes above.

   b. Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program – Mr. Casner reported that he participated in a Zoom meeting with representatives from CT Landmarks and the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program. He advised that group discussed pre-design details and developed a tentative schedule for the project.

5. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA) – Mr. Robidoux reported that plans for this year's Celebrate East Haddam event are going well with 180 vendors and several food trucks. He noted that the event will be held at the Goodspeed Airport on September 4th and there will be arial and water shows.

   - Commission on Aging (Joseph Sina) – Welcome Wagon initiative – Mr. Robidoux reported that EHBA has been talking with local businesses about the Welcome Wagon initiative.

V. New Business

A. Business of the Month – Nomination and Vote

Ms. Haines reiterated that Roots Salon is scheduled to be the next Business of the Month and noted that the picture and article about Wolf's Den Campground's award has not yet been published. She stated that it has been challenging to schedule pictures and get the Business of the Month posted in the East Haddam News and, therefore, recommended naming a business for this distinction every two months. The Commissioners agreed with her suggestion.

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Butler stated that Mr. Jezek's comments at the beginning of the meeting were interesting and agreed that the issues the Commissioners had discussed with him should be addressed. He noted, however, that the Swing Bridge repair project will also have the positive impact of encouraging East Haddam residents to do more of their shopping at local retailers. He suggested that other opportunities may come out of the Swing Bridge project and EDC should look for ways to promote and communicate same.

VII. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

There was no additional discussion at the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. DAVIS, TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler