

Economic Development Commission

March 28 2019 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jody Ellant, Jamison Scott, Wayne Luciani, Mike Holland, Jeremy Rosner, Brooks Dougherty (joined the meeting at 7:20 pm), and Board of Selectmen liaison Mica Cardozo (joined the meeting at 7:15 pm)

1. At 7:05 p.m. Jody Ellant called the meeting to order.
2. Minutes
Jeremy Rosner made a motion to approve the October 2018 meeting minutes. Jamison Scott seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
Jamison Scott made a motion to approve the December 2018 meeting minutes. Mike Holland seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
Jeremy Rosner made a motion to approve the January 2019 meeting minutes. Jamison Scott seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
3. There was no public comment.
4. 2019 Meeting Dates
The Commission discussed the proposed 2019 meeting dates. The topic of frequency of meetings was discussed as it relates to the work the commission plans to do in the remainder of the year.

The commission discussed holding an economic forum similar to one held in Branford with a catered breakfast and a State of the Town address from the First Selectman and a report from either REX Development or United Illuminating. Following the forum real estate brokers and developers will be invited on a bus tour to see the available space in town.

The Commission agreed to hold the event in September or October.

Based on that decision, the Commission agreed to skip the April meeting, skip the August and December meeting and hold the July meeting on Thursday July 25 instead of on a Tuesday at a concert on the Green.

Jeremy Rosner made a motion to approve the modified meeting dates. Jamison Scott second. All in favor; the motion passed.

5. CERC Report

The Commission discussed the CERC Financial Analysis of the Town and their take-aways.

Board of Selectman Liaison Mica Cardozo will ask the Board if they are interested in having EDC do an analysis of the report and coming up with suggestions and projects based on the data in the report.

Assuming the Board is interested, the EDC will conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the report at the May meeting.

6. Staff Report

Betsy Yagla updated the commission on several items including the new business guide, wayfinding signs, the trail and retail map and a business happy hour on May 14 at Solun. The Commission also reviewed a report on the 13 businesses that she has surveyed to date.

7. Resources for Small Businesses

Betsy Yagla reported on a workshop she attended about supporting small businesses and shared some ideas including a speaker series or office hour series to provide professional advice to small business on topics such as human resources, marketing, insurance and others.

The topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

8. Brooks Dougherty made a motion to adjourn. Mike Holland seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.