

Economic Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 9, 2020

Video of the meeting may be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqvyIQ8MXag>

In attendance: Chair Jeremy Rosner, Vice chair Tobenna Nwangwu, Shawn Fallon, Debbie Brander, Clio Nicolakis and staff Betsy Yagla

Mr. Rosner called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment submitted for the meeting.

Minutes:

Ms. Brander made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as submitted. Ms. Nicolakis seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Brander made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as submitted. Clio Nicolakis seconded. Mr. Nwangwu abstained. Mr. Rosner, Mr. Fallon, Ms. Brander, Ms. Nicolakis voted in favor; the motion passed.

Update on Survey of local businesses

The commission discussed the survey and a few additional questions regarding how COVID 19 is affecting businesses. It was agreed to wait until September and send the survey out in the fall after Phase 3 of the State's reopening plan has happened and after schools open.

Ms. Yagla announced that two interns are helping over the summer to make calls to local businesses with a very short survey asking if they are open, how they are operating differently (if at all), asking what the Town can do to help and also gathering emails for the Town's newsletter.

Survey of residents about possible businesses

The commission discussed a survey from another town that could serve as a blueprint. It was suggested that commission members review the survey and, before the next meeting, decide what they feel is important to be included.

Marketing campaign

Ms. Yagla added that the two interns will help with a summer program called "Business of the

Week” that will highlight local retail and service businesses in a video or photo essay to show the public what’s available and what businesses are doing to ensure safety of consumers.

There will also be a separate video by a company called CGI that will produce a free video for the Town about recovery efforts.

#### Other

Ms. Brander announced that Abel Catering has opened a food truck, Neil’s Wheels, that specializes in New Haven style pizza and can do other catering as well.

Ms. Yagla shared that First Selectman Beth Heller announced at the Board of Selectmen meeting the creation of a 2030 Task Force that will look into how to expand and diversify the Town’s grand list. Jeremy Rosner will be one of the task force members.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Flynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nicolakis seconded. All in favor; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be Aug. 13 at 7 pm.