

MINUTES

NORTH HAVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission held electronically on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present:

First Selectman, Michael J. Freda, Stephen Fontana, Walter Mann, Richard LoPresti, Frank Maher, Christine Reardon, Robert Zambrano

Absent:

Deb Moore, Alan Sturtz

Also Present:

Valerie Goodkin, Assistant to First Selectman

Chairman Mann called the meeting to order and welcomed the Commission members. Mr. Mann asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022 meeting. Mr. Zambrano motioned with a second by Mr. Fontana for the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of the EDC held on June 23, 2022.

VOTE: All in favor

Chairman Mann opened for discussion the possibility of hosting a fall Economic Development Breakfast. The members discussed including sponsorship opportunities, which would allow sponsors time to briefly present to the audience. Ms. Reardon was in favor of workforce development as a topic for presentation. Mr. Zambrano thought that the new People's bank take over by M & T Bank might be a good fit to approach for sponsorship. The discussion continued with some concerns about COVID and perhaps it may be better to not do the breakfast this fall but to revisit for the spring. In the mean time the Commission members agreed to continue researching possible venues and perhaps physically visit several options to consider for the spring.

Chairman Mann announced to the members that we have signed up to participate in the Chamber Business Showcase on September 22, 2022 at the Best Western. He asked if any of the Commission members could volunteer some time to assist Valerie with manning the booth.

The Commission then engaged in a discussion about the possibility of forming business micro clusters where businesses in a district could gather periodically to discuss challenges or ideas and comments for the businesses in their area. The Commission could support the district, but each group would organize and conduct the meetings. The group discussed potential synergies with the Chamber.

Mr. Freda provided an extensive update on various economic development projects all across town. Discussion continued among the Commission members.

Commission members discussed the role of a paid Economic Development Director and whether the Town would benefit from at least a part time person in that capacity. The discussion continued with members agreeing to do some research into neighboring towns and appropriate salary ranges.

Mr. Zambrano motioned with a second from Mr. LoPresti to adjourn at 9:44 am.

VOTE: All in favor