

# MINUTES

## NORTH HAVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission held electronically on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

### **Members Present:**

Walter Mann, Stephen Fontana, Michael Freda, Richard LoPresti, Debra Moore, Christine Reardon, Robert Zambrano

### **Absent:**

Alan Sturtz

### **Also Present:**

Valerie Goodkin, Assistant to First Selectman  
Ray Andrewsen, Executive Director, Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Mann called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and welcomed the Commission members. Mr. Mann asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 27, 2022. Christine Reardon motioned with a second by Richard LoPresti for the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of the EDC held on October 27, 2022.

**VOTE: Mann – yes; Fontana yes; LoPresti – yes; Moore – yes; Reardon – Zambrano - yes**

Chairman Mann announced to the members that the Greater New Haven Chamber is holding their Big Connect Business Expo on November 17, 2023 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Omni in New Haven. The Commission members discussed the event and whether or not it would be something the Commission will be participating in. Due to a lack of availability among the members the group decided that we would not participate.

Chairman Mann welcomed Ray Andrewsen to the meeting. Mr. Andrewsen shared with the group the Chamber's vision of holding a Business Showcase and Fall Festival on the North Haven Green in the fall with a target date of Saturday, September 23, 2023. He explained that the Chamber would like to partner with the Town to provide a one-day, daytime festival centering on the town green that highlights family friendly activity and promotes local businesses showcasing their goods and services. Ms.

Goodkin explained that the Chamber has already met with Mr. Freda and discussed some of the logistics. Mr. Freda gave the go ahead to proceed with the event and committed to partner with the Chamber.

Ray talked about their vision for the event and what types of food and entertainment they would like to include. He explained that there will be a committee formed to carry out the mission of the event.

The Commission discussed the event with Mr. Andrewsen asking questions and providing suggestions. Mr. Freda explained what Town resources would be available. Mr. Andrewsen welcomed participation from the EDC members. He also encouraged their support in terms of getting behind the event and marketing the event to the business community.

Mr. Freda provided his update of various economic development throughout the Town and discussion followed.

Ms. Goodkin informed the Commission that the Chamber is hosting the State of the Town Address on February 24, 2023 at Quinnipiac University. She advised that she would email the registration link out the Commission members for those interested in attending.

Mr. Freda suggested that in light of the State of the Town Address being held in February, where he would be providing an overview of economic development, perhaps the Commission may want to consider skipping a spring EDC Breakfast and revisit for the fall.

With no further business before the Commission Ms. Reardon motioned with a second from Mr. Zambrano to adjourn at 9:51 am.

**VOTE: All in favor**