

MINUTES

Members Present: D. Dorfer, D. Fecho, S. Ferrigno, M. Hirschorn (6:03 p.m.), A. McPherson, W. Okeson, L. Watson

Ex-Officio Members Present: Toni Moran

Members Absent: C. Chukwuogor,

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Ben Shaiken

Staff Present: C. van Zelm, Executive Director Mansfield Downtown Partnership; L. Painter, Director of Planning and Development; E. Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Ferrigno called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Latiga, Coventry resident and business owner in Mansfield and Bolton, said he was interested in learning about Mansfield's Economic Development Commission's methods of operation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Absent a quorum since the October, 2019 meeting, Ferrigno suggested approving 3 sets of draft minutes as a group. McPherson MOVED, Fecho seconded, to approve the November 21, 2019, December 12, 2019 and January 16, 2020 Minutes as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS AT MEETING

A. Review of Draft Memo to Planning and Zoning Commission

McPherson MOVED, Fecho seconded, to approve the draft memo to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the Eagleville Green. Motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Governance Subcommittee-Draft Bylaws for Discussion

Watson reviewed the draft of proposed Bylaws to members. Questions were raised around what constitutes removal of a member. Discussion on this will continue at future meetings.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Member Updates

Van Zelm stated that UConn-Town of Mansfield liaison, Cara Workman, would be attending the next UConn Collaboration Subcommittee meeting. McPherson asked about UConn's position on purchasing from Mansfield Supply for project materials. Staff stated that this was discussed at the last Town/University Relations meeting, and that UConn confirmed that it does purchase from Mansfield Supply for immediate needs, but that large project materials are sourced from other vendors.

Painter reported that the Zoning Regulation Review Subcommittee is working on proposed draft amendments for the Zoning Regulations re-write. Members reported feedback from local business owners regarding a desire for larger signage for their businesses.

The EDC welcomed two newly appointed members, William Okeson and Diane Dorfer, to their first meeting as regular, voting members. Ferrigno stated that he is talking with two other individuals about joining the EDC to fill vacancies.

Ferrigno reported that he made visits to 14 businesses in the south end of Mansfield to discuss local economic development and deliver letters with EDC contact information.

B. Staff Updates

Van Zelm reported that staff is preparing a draft of the annual presentation to the Town Council on the marketing plan, including budget and fabricating entry way signage and creating and printing an info guide. Staff is also working on a new community calendar.

C. Business Updates (Openings/Closings)

Several EDC and staff members reported attending the grand opening of the historic and renovated Echo Grange, now named Stone Hill. The renovation and re-opening was carried out by local business owners, and now offers rental space and catering for events, and classes for the community. Attendees stated the project was beautifully completed, paying homage to its agricultural roots, and were very optimistic about the potential success of the venue.

D. Housing Updates

Painter reported that the J.E. Shepard Company has resubmitted a wetlands application for the proposed project at 1621 Storrs Road and Middle Turnpike, with a public hearing set for March 4, 2020.

Project "Eagleville Green", proposed at the intersections of So. Eagleville Rd and Maple Rd, has its public hearing with the Inland Wetlands Agency set for March 2, 2020.

Lastly, a pre-application for a proposed project at 1717-1753 Storrs Rd was recently reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their last regular meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Town Council Response to UConn re: multi-family development

Staff reported the Town Council was in support of the Mayor's letter to the president of UConn, which stated the Town's needs and a desire for the Town and the University to work cooperatively in regards to newly proposed housing projects.

B. Newspaper articles

Members asked about the progress of the Old Navy store coming into East Brook Mall. Painter reported that it is moving along, but is a slow process.

C. Other

Dorfer announced upcoming agricultural events. On February 22, 2020 the “Friends and Farmers” event is schedule to take place at the Buchanan Center. On February 29, 2020 the regional event “Know Your Farmer’s Fair” will be held in Windham. And on March 9, 2020 the “Farmer’s Forum” will take place at the Buchanan Center. All these events provide opportunities for residents to meet local farmers and to learn about the services they offer and challenges they face.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next regular meeting of the EDC is scheduled for March 19, 2020 at 6 p.m. in Conference Room B.

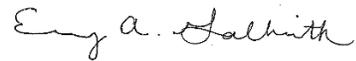
B. Future Meeting Topics

Members expressed an interest in discussing local job creation at future meetings.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ferrigno adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Emmy A. Galbraith
Administrative Assistant