

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
February 8, 2022

PRESENT: Chairman John Allen, Commissioners Robert Werner, Hank Teskey, Phil Sengle

Also present: Thomas Hollinger

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of January 11, 2022 meeting:

- A motion was made by P. Sengle, seconded by R. Werner to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Guests: None

Old Business:

CMC/STEM Report:

- See R. Werner's notes attached
- Ted Fisher, Director of Business Development, AdvanceCT continues to meet with P. Williams of Kenyon to find sites suitable for development in CT for his business expansion. While Whitcraft works with Kenyon toward Lean/Continuous Improvement which will ultimately free up the room needed for expansion.
- The PTA is promoting a career in manufacturing at the school and on the website.
 - When the CNC machine is up and running, they will host an Open House
 - The school lab has 15 machines and becoming a "micro world class advance manufacturing center"

STEAP Façade Improvement Grant:

- Submitted the CT Historical Preservation grant for Grand Apizza
- Continue to struggle to find contractors willing to submit bids for the needed work on the downtown facades

ARPA Economic Development: Tourism/Cultural Marketing Planning:

- Sam Gold, Director of Rivercog, which is comprised of 13 towns, is developing an initiative for a marketing plan for this entire region using ARPA funds
 - A theme for the entire region would be developed, then each town would highlight their key attractions
 - The Middlesex Chamber could become the central hub for this entire region
 - A professional PR person is needed to help with this marketing
 - It has been said, this is the "lost, quiet, easy to visit, with a lot of stuff to see and do corner of CT"
- Our EDC subcommittee, consisting of J. Allen, H. Teskey, N. Dakis and R. Murdock will continue to brainstorm ideas to market Clinton and discuss "shelf ready projects"

Clinton Business Development Forum Report:

- The forum hosted by the EDC, State Representative C. Goupil and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce Director P. Orsini was well attended and very productive
- It was suggested that a forum focusing strictly on manufacturers be held in the near future

New Business:

Videography Program:

- Tom Foster has been announcing/calling the basketball games which are broadcast on the network
 - T. Foster has high school students and equipment ready to begin interviewing towns people, to include town officials and business leaders/ owners
 - H. Teskey will investigate how to have these interviews broadcast on the website and/or a tv channel

- The hiring of the part time Economic Development liaison staffer will be discussed with the Town Manager

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott
Clerk

CMC/Advanced Manufacturing Partnership

- Once the Haas CNC machining center is up and running, Phil Williams, President of Kenyon International, offered to have the school manufacture a part for one of their products. He said the school could also put the school logo on the part. The practical hands on for students would be significant as it would cover just about every aspect of manufacturing, engineering and current curriculum.
- Goodwin University Advanced Manufacturing Mobile Lab at Middle School for second time on Wednesday February 2. Approximately 240 students participated in the two events.
- Some school counselors will be visiting the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in East Hartford on February 15. Some counselors have already visited Bausch last year.
- Westbrook-We have been sharing information with each other for sometime and there is a potential to partner and share resources down the road. The same is true for North Branford.
- BW accepted an invitation from Goodwin University Magnet Schools as a team member to build what they think is needed for the next generation of HS in Connecticut. They have been awarded funding to develop and open a one-of-a-kind technical magnet school. First meeting on February 10.
- We have established a new partnership with ManufactureCT. Founded in 1913, ManufactureCT, (formerly New Haven Manufacturers Association) is among the longest-running industry groups to serve manufacturers in the United States.
- BW met Frank Alvarado, SBA Senior Area Manager at the Business Development Forum held at the town hall on February 3. He is very interested in meeting with the CMC members. Working on.