

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
June 8, 2021

PRESENT: Chairman John Allen, Commissioners Hank Teskey, Phil Williams, John Hussaini, Richard Juel (arrived 6:40 pm), Rob Acampora, and John May

Also present: Town Council Liaison Tim Guerra

Guest: Tom Foster

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

Correspondence: None

Briefly mentioned the commissioners' whose term ends this November.

Old Business:

Clinton Manufacturing Coalition Status:

- Reviewed B. Werner's notes regarding
  - Ready CT
  - Goodwin Mobile Lab
  - New Business Tourism Promotion and Marketing

STEAP Grant Status:

- The architect has been hired
- The architectural renderings are due by June 11 to June 15 and will encompass 11 buildings from the old Chester's to Cindy Stevens
- The application process for the landlords and/or business owners to apply for the grant has been approved
- EDC will review the applications and award the grant monies
  - For every dollar spent by landlord, the grant will give three dollars with a maximum given of \$50,000

Underpass Plans:

- The Placemakers, Gary Bousquet, Garden Club and others are dressing up the walkway underpass
  - Entryway into town from the train station

Downtown Real Estate Activity:

- The west end of town is booming with new buildings, remodels and new landlords

Trolley Status:

- The trolley will run 7 days a week from Hammonasset Beach to Clinton

Part-time Business Liaison Ideas – Tom Foster and Commission:

- Discussed some outreach suggestions:
  - Highlight good things in town and possibly put on weekly public TV
  - Interview business owners
  - Interview town leaders to showcase and learn more about the town and their goals for the town
  - Highlight the events scheduled in town
  - Suggested a Coach's Corner spotlight
    - Televising the games with a play by play commentary
    - List players and the position they play
  - Get volunteers and students involved to film and interviews
  - Put all highlights and information on a website and connect it to social media

New Business:

Tourism Promotion and Marketing:

- Make downtown more vibrant and attractive
- Put together a presentation of the walkability of downtown to be made to DECD
  - Need to apply for grant monies for next year
  - Need to do an assessment of what is needed to be done to get this project going
  - A motion was made by P. Williams, seconded by R. Juel to authorize J. Allen, H. Teskey and R. Juel to set up appointments to visit boards, committees and organizations to make this presentation a town wide project. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott  
Clerk

BW June 8 EDC Meeting notes

### **Old Business Clinton Manufacturing Coalition Status STEM**

**Ready CT:** Educator Externship Program (For Employers). Morgan School and Bausch were the first on shoreline selected for this new process.

Status: Found out last week, from Bausch, the school committed but did not follow through. Meeting this week with Bausch and Sheryl McNamee, Director of Public Affairs, ReadyCT – Very disappointing.

### **Goodwin Mobile Lab**

Status: Event held May 18 at Middle School. 120+ students experienced. Spent the whole day and got to meet some great teachers.

Guest:

Leslie Carson, Student Career Development, Westbrook Schools. As a result, they held the same event on May 27. 130 students experienced; Lee Manufacturing participated as well as town officials.

Roger Salway, EDC Coordinator, N. Branford.

**No one from Clinton EDC, manufacturing, Town visited – Very DISSAPOINTING!**

### **New Business Tourism Promotion and Marketing**

BW cannot wait to take the Trolley downtown or train into the beautiful new station, and walk downtown to experience the new cultural attraction, an “Animal Hospital”. That will certainly entice tourism. Hope those four-legged guest will use our restaurants, buy some art, etc. What the (can't use my explicit) are we thinking!