



CHESTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Special Meeting Notice
Monday, 5/23/22 at 1 PM

MINUTES- APPROVED

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting called to order 1:08PM by Chairman Jon Joslow. Pat Bandzes and Susan Wright in attendance. Audience of citizens, Mike Sanders, Chair P&Z

2. Approval of draft minutes 4/5/22

Motion to approve and seconded by Pat and Susan respectively. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of draft minutes 5/11/22

Corrections:

East Haddam Bike and Walk Path- meeting 5/4 (vs 5/12), and East Haddam EDC received in-kind service grant (vs grant).

Rails to Trails Initiative- National Park Service representative meeting in Chester on June 2 (vs June 6)

Townwide Bike/Ped Initiative- Cindy Lignar is a member Chester's Sustainability Committee and an alternate member representing Chester at RiverCOG.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected and seconded by Pat and Susan respectively. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Current town initiatives

First Selectwoman Janecek was briefly delayed from attending this portion of the meeting. P&Z Chair Michael Sanders was in the audience so the discussion centered around the need to prioritize the 6 goals, 21 Objectives and 118 Tasks/Initiatives/Intentions contained within Section 6 of the POCD. Jon discussed the need to overlay the existing list of current town initiatives into one master list of all initiatives, their priority, the agencies that are working on them and the primary responsible party. This list would also include major milestones and budgetary impacts/status. It would allow everyone to know who is working on which initiatives. Jon shared his perspective that it could make it easier for people to



volunteer if they knew which initiatives could use their support based upon their skills, experience and interests.

Mike said that P&Z is beginning to look at the POCD recommendations to determine the status and where P&Z should be proactive in conjunction with direction from Chester's elected leadership. The combination of the POCD list and the current list of projects and initiatives was discussed as a good starting point to get all boards and commissions on the same page.

First Selectwoman Janecek arrived at 1:22PM. The discussion moved to Charlene's review of each initiative:

59 Winthrop Road (Skyview): Charlene

5/23/22 Paperwork from Atlas signed, Charlene to follow up

Meet with large Chester employers: Charlene and EDC

5/23/22- Charlene to request Jenny to schedule with select employers and to coordinate as best as possible with EDC so a member could attend. Not a requirement, but an objective. Jon to draft an interview format with standard questions as part of a call report to be filed with the Selectwomen's office so there is a permanent record and history.

WIFI/Towers: Charlene, Ed Mehan, EDC- Susan

5/23/22-

Charlene signed the agreement for the \$93K Steap funding but it does not commit the project to move forward. Charlene is working on the costs for providing free internet service downtown. She is also addressing cell reception within Chester.

Goodspeed at Chester- Charlene

5/23/22- No performances scheduled for this season, 3 productions planned for next year

33 Liberty Street / MS Brooks Factory:

5/23/22- Potential buyer -approached P&Z a few months ago. They cannot apply for affordable housing waiver because they are not the landowner. He doesn't want to purchase the property unless he knows that he can develop the property as he wants.

212 Middlesex Ave (Ted Tine Motorsports)

5/23/22- Property still for sale

47 Middlesex Ave (St. Josephs Parish Center)- Charlene



5/23/22- Charlene and John are meeting Thursday 1:00 with a potential affordable housing developer. Mike might attend.

RiverCOG 15%(Charlene)

5/23/22- Charlene has not heard from RiverCOG outside of the initial request last year. She doesn't know of any town that has responded and expressed an interest in spending our ARPA money on Chester vs regional projects. It was decided to remove this item from our list.

East Haddam Swing Bridge Rehabilitation (Charlene)

5/23/22- Bridge mapping in Judy, construction in the Fall.
Transportation To and From Marinas: Charlene

Transportation to and from Chester Marinas to Chester Center (Charlene)

5/23/22- Charlene meeting with marina representatives this Thursday to discuss a pilot program and the cost structure. Cost to Chester \$10K. Small bus from Downtown Transit is accessible on an application where the rider specifies a pickup. Deep River has expressed interest as well. Chester's motivation is to reduce parking congestion. Pat will join Charlene at this meeting.

Boardwalk from North Quarter Park to the Cemetery Road (John Ivimey and Mike Abramson)

5/23/22- no update

Child Care in Chester (Kim Megrath, Chester Community Partnership)

5/23/22- no update from 5/11 report except CBSRZ announced their interest in renting out a portion of that facility to a preschool operator.

Chester's Bike/Ped infrastructure

Chester Streets/Bike-Ped initiative- Chester Sustainability Committee (Cindy Lignar)

Rails to Trails - Chester Sustainability Committee (Rick Holloway)

East Haddam Ped/Bike Path Spur- (EDC- Pat Bandzes)

5/23/22 - Cindy, Rick and Pat met last week to coordinate efforts to improve Chester's ped/bike infrastructure. No Locip funding to be available to pay for sidewalks (connectivity) for at least 3 years.

Funding for advertising and communication (Mandy- Merchants)

5/23/22 Charlene would consider supporting an ARPA request once it is presented

Rest room facilities/public bathroom



5/23/22- there is interest in locating the bathrooms in the old drive through bank branch on Water Street. There is no septic and the thought is either porta potties or composting units in or around that building. Charlene will check to see when that lease expires.

Water station for people and pets

5/23/22- Charlene said that this has been tried in the past and that the water company wants \$20K/line plus an annual cost for the water. Charlene is fine with this project going forward but that the one time and recurring expenses would have to be understood in advance. No one is working on this presently.

Weekend trash removal- street receptacles

5/23/22- Charlene spoke to Sue Hotkoski about hiring Scott Mills to keep the trash cans empty before and after the summer market. The town is presently paying overtime and Charlene would like the Market to pay for this expense since it is a privately funded business.

2:08 PM- Charlene left the meeting

Recycling station

5/23/22- not discussed

Maintenance of Main Street streetscape

5/23/22- not discussed

5. Audience of citizens

Community Involvement:

Discussed publishing the above list of major initiatives, ownership and status once the responsible parties are confirmed. Because there are not enough volunteers and resources to tackle all recommendations, there is a desire to communicate the various openings on commissions and committees as well as all of the specific initiatives that need interested residents to help tackle them. To that end, Jon suggested setting up a summer market 10 x 10 tent that focuses on COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. The intention is to post openings on committees and commissions, and this list of projects which identifies where we need specific assistance to make progress. The booth would be manned by Republicans, Democrats, Independent/other parties and by people who are already involved. Jon to follow up with Susan Hotkowski.

Regarding the desire to engage Chester residents to help in the community, Jon will research a successful Essex initiative that trained a new generation of volunteers and

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community leaders around 25 years ago. Volunteerism, leadership continuity and succession planning are issues in Chester.

Jon also mentioned that an article in the Valley Courier and a note in the weekly Selectwoman's Corner, would also raise awareness of the many listed opportunities there are to help Chester maintain its quality of life.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn and seconded by Pat and Susan respectively. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 2:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Joslow, Chair