

Approved: _____

DRAFT
TOWN OF MONTVILLE
MEETING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
April 18, 2011

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Chuck Longton called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

Commissioners Marjorie Gatheral, Ann Mattson, Al Skulczyck, Jim Toner and, Chuck Longton were present. Commissioners James Andriote, Leonard Bunnell, John Diamantini and Robert Thorn were absent.

4 Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (three minute limit).

None

5. Adjustments to the Agenda.

Commissioner Longton added the following items to the agenda: Item 11a, Discussion of membership and Item 11b, Planning Department Memorandum.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting—November 15, 2010

This agenda item was tabled until later in the meeting.

7. Communications.

Commissioner Longton reported that B. Caron was out of town and G. Gathers reported that L. Bunnell was unable to attend the meeting.

8. Guest Speaker.

None

9. Reports.

a. From the Mayor.

Mayor Jaskiewicz was absent from the meeting.

b. From the Town Planner.

M. Vlaun was absent from the meeting.

c. From the EDC Liaison.

B. Caron was absent from the meeting but C. Buebendorf was present on his behalf. She said B. Caron did not ask her specifically to report on anything, but she took the opportunity to thank Commissioners Toner and Bunnell for their report to the Town Council on the town businesses that they visited. C. Buebendorf said that their report was a great idea and informative.

d. From Standing Committees.

i. Town Recognition/Beautification Award (Commissioners Longton, Thorn, Gatheral.

Commissioner Gatheral reported that on the candidates discussed at a prior meeting for the award—Bill Allen, Oakdale Country Market. This item was tabled for discussion at the next Commission Meeting.

e. From Special Committees.

i. SBA Committees.

Commissioner Toner reported that the information given to the Commission in November 2010 was reported to the Town Council, as commented on earlier by C. Buebendorf. As a result of a recent newspaper article, people have been calling with interest about the Town of Montville. When questioned by A. Skulczyck if there is a list of the businesses that have closed, J. Toner said he had no data on it. J. Toner also said that he and L. Bunnell were asked by the Town Council to interview businesses who have been in Town a long time. They agreed to bring the action item back to the Commission for consideration. Questions arose regarding discussion of the topic such as, 1) Is the action item pertinent to what the EDC is doing? 2) Was not the original intent of the EDC to learn why businesses were started and/or remained in Montville? 3) Did not Commissioner Andriote talk about possible incentives for new businesses? Commissioner Longton asked Commissioner Gatheral to read the charge of the Commission. Per discussion, the Commission proposed getting a list from the Town Planner of businesses that have opened within the last five (5) years since it would be more representative of the recent economic climate that has affected everybody. J. Toner commented that seasonality, mismanagement of inventory and cash, and failure to make use of social sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and the Internet have adversely hurt businesses. He suggested speaking with the Mayor and the Town Planner about holding free workshops on managing a business during a recession. They also agreed to have C. Buebendorf notify B. Caron to have the Town Council clarify its action item for SBA special committee.

10. Unfinished Business.

a. Organize a Historical Scenic Travel Route as a tourism incentive (Commissioners Gatheral and Toner).

Commissioner Gatheral reported that she and J. Toner have collected a list of historical buildings in the Town and that the Town Planner and the Wetlands Agent are working on a list of the top 10 tourist attractions to see if there is a viable tourist route. She added that she had spoken with Peg Curtin in New London about working collaboratively with Montville on the same.

11. New Business.

a. Commission Membership (Commissioner Longton).

Commissioner Longton reported that J. Andriote has submitted his resignation. He has also learned that L. Bunnell and J. Diamantini will resign at the end of their terms. The Commission discussed future candidates Willis Pike, who C. Buebendorf will contact and Mari Jursyck, who C. Longton will contact.

b. Planning Department Memorandum.

Commissioner Longton distributed that report from the Town Planner for April 2011 regarding newly approved businesses within the Town of Montville. He suggested that J. Toner contact these businesses and establish a relationship with them.

12. Other Business.

Motion: **That the Commission approves November 15, 2010, meeting minutes, as written.**

Proposed by: Ann Mattson

Seconded by: Jim Toner

Vote: Carried unanimously

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13. Remarks (three minute limit).

a. From Individual Commissioners.

None

b. From Town Council Liaison.

None

c. From the Public on EDC topics.

None

14. Adjournment.

Motion: **That the meeting is adjourned.**

Proposed by: Ann Mattson

Seconded by: Jim Toner

Vote: Carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Chuck Longton, Chair
Economic Development Commission

Gloria J. Gathers, Recording Secretary