

TOWN OF MONTVILLE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
**Regular Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2017**  
7:00 p.m. – Montville Town Hall - Room 203

1. Call to Order.  
Chairman Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.  
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call.  
Present were Commissioners Karl Butzgy, Christopher Napierski, Jim Toner, and Chairman Walter Hewitt. Also present was Town Council Liaison Joseph Rogulski (7:45 p.m.). A quorum was present.
4. Alterations to the Agenda. -- *None*
5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).  
Chairman Hewitt asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:
  - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2017.  
Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Butzgy, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2017, as written. Discussion: none. Voice Vote, 4-0. Motion carried.
7. Unfinished Business:
  - a. EDC Website Design (Commissioner Napierski)  
Commissioner Napierski stated the vacancies on the Commission should be added to the website. Chairman Hewitt asked if there was a way to do more about the vacancies such as banner ad or a notice on the front page of the Commission website. Commissioner Toner suggested that he contact Town Clerk L. Terry regarding the same. It was also discussed that Town Councilor Rogulski had referenced the vacancies on the Town Forum Facebook page, a private group to which a link can be created to become a member. Chairman Hewitt suggested that the Commissioners sign up for it. Also, Commissioner Toner explained why this agenda item is appropriately titled under “Unfinished Business.”
  - b. Discuss distribution of the EDC M-BAP Pamphlet.  
Chairman Hewitt noted that this agenda item had been discussed previously but he did not know whether it had been pursued. Mailbox hangers were suggested and Commissioner Butzgy agreed to research the legal standpoint for them for discussion at the next meeting. Chairman Hewitt proposed that the Commissioners consider ideas such as posters at local businesses for discussion at the next meeting.
  - c. Discuss the Montville Conservation and Zoning Plan.  
Chairman Hewitt asked Commissioners if they saw the Plan emailed to them by Town Councilor Rogulski. Commissioner Toner explained that Planning & Zoning (P&Z), has

begun to review the Plan long range and looking for ways to press the State and Federal governments for things it wants to do. The Commission discussed the State's financial compact with the local tribes in addition to local development and economy directly impacting Montville. Commissioner Toner stated that it would be another 8-9 months before the updated Plan will be completed. Chairman Hewitt suggested that the Commissioners review the current plan for further discussion.

d. Consideration and action of the focus and direction of Commission.

Chairman Hewitt stated that the point of this agenda item is to support the Town of Montville. He referenced an article in *The Day* about Preston and its ongoing struggle and said it stated the State said that its approach is the way that economic development should be approached. He also spoke about the ability of independent groups to move forward and make progress and the leeway afforded lots of nonprofits. Chairman Hewitt stated the Commission must align its focus with the Montville Conservation and Zoning Plan. He will contact Town Planner M. Vlaun regarding the same.

8. New Business:

Commissioner Butzgy asked about a for sale sign posted at the location of the former drive-in theater. Commissioner Toner gave an update regarding it.

9. Report on Existing, New, Prospective, Lost Businesses (Commissioner Toner).

Commissioner Toner reported that Jensen's is putting together another age-restricted property on 35 acres located on Old Colchester Road across from another of its properties. He said a public hearing for the proposed property is scheduled for tomorrow night, July 18<sup>th</sup>. He also asked whether everyone had reviewed the ZWO report forwarded by G. Gathers. Commissioner Toner explained that the report included blight concerns reviewed by ZWO L. Burdick. He commented that safety concerns are handled by the Building Department and zoning infractions by P&Z.

10. Feedback from the Townspeople and Businesses.

a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

The Commission had no proposed recipients for the award. Chairman Hewitt suggested that the award should be given on an annual basis. Commissioner Toner suggested recognizing businesses quarterly and only for those that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. He proposed a recipient for the award but it was agreed that consideration would be held over for discussion at next month's meeting.

11. Report from Town Council Liaison Joe Rogulski.

Town Councilor Rogulski reported the Town Council has been very busy with the Town budget, the ratification of union contracts. He spotlighted Jensen's expansion discussed earlier by Commissioner Toner stating that retirement communities bring a great tax base to the Town and potentially more ambulance calls, a burden to the Town at a cost for paid firefighters. Commissioner Toner commented that young families with children are needed to increase school enrollment. Town Councilor Rogulski added that increased hiring at Electric Boat could have a positive effect on the Town. School enrollment and the ripple

effect of home sales are also Town economic factors if a school is closed in addition to the State's consideration about teachers' pension.

12. Communications
  - a. Strat Comms Working Group Update

Commissioner Butzgy suggested that this item be tabled until the next meeting as the binders for the same were in his other vehicle. Chairman Hewitt agreed and suggested that dates be associated with some of the items. In addition, he suggested consideration be given to quarterly communication with Town residents. Commissioner Butzgy asked that the Commission consider having a booth at the next Montville Fair for social media exposure.
13. Remarks from the Public (3 Minute limit)

Chairman Hewitt asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
14. Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison Rogulski

Commissioner Butzgy confirmed that he had not officially resigned from the Commission. It was agreed that the pursuit of new Commission members is paramount. Chairman Hewitt reiterated that all should access the Town Forum on Facebook.
15. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Toner; seconded by Commissioner Napierski to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote; 4-0; all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE FROM THE TOWN WEBSITE.**