

TOWN OF MONTVILLE
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda – August 17, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL

The Town of Montville will be utilizing a virtual FreeConferenceCall service for this meeting.

Please call number below to attend the meeting at:

[1-\(605\) 313-5935](tel:1-605-313-5935)

[PIN # 401237](#)

On March 14, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance or by live audio via FreeConferenceCall.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerks Office at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least **1 working day in advance** (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Economic Development Commission.

Live audio comments may be made via FreeConferenceCall by calling from your telephone.

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Economic Development Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.

- 1) Call to Order
Commissioner Napierski began the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
- 3) Roll Call
Present were Commissioner Christopher Napierski and Sheelagh Lapinski. Absent were Commissioners Mickey Gillette, Heather Harris, Chairman Walter Hewitt, and Town Council Liaison Colleen Rix. A quorum was not present.
- 4) Alterations to the Agenda – *No action*
- 5) Remarks from Marcia Vlaun
Town Planner Vlaun gave an update on employment with the Town. She reported the 1,000 employees furloughed by Mohegan Sun will be permanently laid off. The unemployment rate for Montville during June was 13%. Regional jobs affected by the pandemic include manufacturing (down 4%) and service and hospitality (down 45%). Town Planner Vlaun spoke about grants being sought for 1) the community center meeting room air conditioning, Covid filtering, and replacement of the gymnasium floor, 2) a grant with the City of Norwich for repaving sidewalks on the Norwich-New London Turnpike; and 3) a Community Connectivity Grant for pedestrian access at the Route 32 triangle. She also spoke on a proposal for self-storage units where the old gravel pit was located, a gas station/convenience store at Route 161 and 85, improvement of a gas station at Routes 163 and 85; single home sales; and plans for decks, pools, and sheds. Town Planner Vlaun responded to a question by Commissioner Napierski as to the housing market. She spoke of the retention of home values in Montville Manor and said the market has been steady with new single-family houses not staying on the market long. She also responded to Town Councilor Rix on the state unemployment of 10%. *Town Planner Vlaun left the meeting at 7:21 p.m.*
- 6) Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit)
Commissioner Napierski asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
- 7) Desire to recruit Commissioners
 - Wrote Nancy Cowser and asked if she might consider joining us and/or knew of anyone
 - Please consider potential persons we may wish to recruit. (SCORE volunteers, etc.)Town Councilor Rix said she would do a Facebook push with Town Clerk Sandberg and note the same on the Town website to enlist new commissioners.
- 8) To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve:
 - i) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2020 – *No action*
- 9) Unfinished Business
 - a) Montville real-estate properties for development

Commissioner Napierski noted from prior minutes that the last communication with Mr. Londregan was pre-Covid and said communication from him were direct to Chairman Hewitt.

- b) Mohegan Tribe and our request for contact information regarding retention of businesses vacating the casino – wrote Billy Caron (Colleen – Please speak with Bill and report back)

Town Councilor Rix reported the situation was at a standstill and there appeared to be little interest in business on Route 32 and said Arooga's had failed. Commissioner Napierski commented on the initial contact with the tribe to have them provide feedback for businesses leaving the casino as prospective Route 32 business candidates. Town Councilor Rix said businesses are closing or leaving town but said she would keep the Commission apprised.

- c) New Business Report

Commissioner Napierski said he was happy to see businesses has opened and said the aim was to try to keep businesses open. Town Councilor Rix spoke of providing resources to businesses, commented on businesses that had closed and some that remained open stating the effect of Covid-19 in Town would be long term.

- d) Business Survey – Heather

Commissioner Napierski commented on the status of the survey as previously reported by Commissioner Harris.

- e) Chamber Business After Hours – Heather – *No action*

- f) New Business Report (*This item is duplicative.*)

10) New Business

- a) Deliver plaque to Healing with Horses at Wildrose Horse Farm (Colleen - Plaques?)

Town Councilor Rix reported the last invoice from the plaque company was not paid by the Town but by her from her stipend. She said the Town Council thought the awards should be suspended but emphasized the Commission award as a morale booster. She added the awards for Healing with Horses and to Heller, Heller and McCoy are done and said she would pick them up next week. Commissioner Napierski said once the awards are presented pictures will be taken and posted on Facebook. He asked that Town Councilor Rix notify the Commission once she obtains the plaques. Town Councilor Rix will announce the award for Heller, Heller and McCoy at the next Town Council meeting and asked that Commissioners be available.

- b) Deliver plaque to Heller, Heller and McCoy

This item was discussed under 10.a.

11) Report from Town Council Liaison

Town Councilor Rix spoke of the loss of businesses as a said time and of the work required to bring business back.

12) Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit)

Commissioner Napierski asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

13) Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison

Commissioner Napierski spoke of the Covid-19 response while he was in Thailand for three (3) months and similarities versus the irregularities of business during this pandemic that is based upon tourism.

14) Townspeople and Business Feedback

a) Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award

Commissioner Napierski suggested that the list be reviewed to make sure it makes sense given these times.

15) Adjournment

Commissioner Napierski closed the meeting at 7:44 p.m.