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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

EAST HAVEN, CONN

*Lisa Balter*

TOWN CLERK

Town of East Haven  
Economic Development  
ETV, 230 Main Street, East Haven, CT  
Thursday, August 10, 2023 7:00P.M.

Meeting Minutes

**1. Call meeting to order- Roll Call**

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call taken by Economic Development Director Michelle Benivegna.

**Present:** Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano, Commissioner John Tarducci, Commissioner Michelle Antisdell.

**Absent:** Commissioner Steve DeLucia, Commissioner Mohan Chugani.

**Also Present:** Michelle Benivegna, Town of East Haven Economic Development Director, Kelly Smith, Clerk.

**2. Pledge of allegiance**

All stand for pledge.

**3. Approval of past minutes (5/11/23)**

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano asked if everyone had a chance to review meetings from the last meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Tarducci was not in attendance for the last meeting. A Motion was made by Chairwoman Maiorano, seconded by Michelle Antisdell. Commissioner Tarducci abstain, none opposed, motion carries.

**4. Correspondence**

None

**5. Appointment of a New Clerk**

Michelle Benivegna introduced Kelly Smith to the commission and asked to consider and to approve her to be our new clerk. A Motion to accept and approve Kelly Smith to be the new Economic Development clerk. A Motion was made by Commissioner John Tarducci, second by Michelle Antisdell. All in favor. Motion carries.

**6. Director's report**

Michelle Benivegna mentioned that the town of East Haven entered into an agreement with the town of North Branford regarding their Animal Control Department. This started back in late winter and the town council in North Branford voted 5-4 in our favor of this agreement. This will provide our town with \$135,000.00 dollars in additional revenue that is not from taxes. ACO agreement between the town and North Branford will be beneficial to both towns. We will start providing service to their town on September 1, 2023. Michelle Benivegna mentioned that she had a zoom meeting with John from the Trolley Museum, Mayor Carfora and Joe Deko. John expressed that he would like to see more support from the Economic Development side, such as advertising, and promoting the museum. They shared some ideas on how to help get the word out about the events that they hold there. Michelle Benivegna mentioned that she would like to add some banners to our Main Street district feature a Trolley and to visit this historic museum. Also, we could have a portable sign during the summer months with directions on how to access the Trolley Museum. The Trolley Museum is very important to our town. Michelle asked the commission if they have any other ideas or suggestions on how we could help support them, and help them grow to please share this with me. Michelle spoke about our Hockey Rink going through major renovations last year. This will be our first full year and we are very excited about it. The ice rink is a state-of-the-art facility and that we already have lots of ice time rented. This September we will be having a Sled Hockey Tournament 9/30-10/1/23. The Gaylord Sports Association Wolfpack is a part of Gaylord Specialty Healthcare's adaptive sports program. This program is the only sled hockey team in

Connecticut. Sled hockey is a sit-down version of hockey, played by individuals whose disabilities prevent them from play stand-up hockey. Players use their arms to power themselves on the ice with specially designed sleds. The team is a co-ed and consists of 12 adult players with range of diagnoses including spinal cord injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, amputation and multiple sclerosis. The team is a part of the Northeast Sled Hockey League (NESHL) and competes across the Northeast from September-May. This is the first time this tournament is being held in Connecticut in over a decade. Michelle spoke with Trevor Doyon, the coach and our new rink is the reason they have chosen East Haven to hold it in CT. The rink is fully ADA compliant. Michelle plans to reach out to local businesses etc. for incentives to have visitor's patron their establishments. Michelle also put in front of the Town Council an Economic Development Incentive Program. Our town is competing with other shoreline communities for business, one disadvantage is that we do not have a formal policy on tax abatement or incentives for incoming businesses, our code of ordinances allows us to create a policy for tax incentives to encourage business to see our town as a desirable place for them to land. Michelle spoke at the August Town Council meeting briefly about the need for this model and will be providing a more in-depth presentation at the September meeting at which time there will be a public hearing. I will also have a draft of the policy for the public and Town Council members to review prior. The draft that will be presented will be very similar to the policies already in place in our neighboring towns such as: North Branford, North Haven, Cheshire, Bethany and New Haven.

We are kicking off our Fall season with our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Scarecrow Stroll October 1-21<sup>st</sup>. Art Trail with the Art Commission last year we had over 35 business participate we had over 1,200 people scan the QR code to vote it was a huge success. Michael Moore who a chair on the Art Council sent out over 250 letters to their members.

Michelle tries to meet with Joe Budrow on a weekly basis if schedules allow for it. Planning & Zoning regulations are slowly being updated and should be ready to be voted on in September meeting. Michelle Benivegna spoke about the Cannabis Moratorium and Commissioner Tarducci mentioned that it is been about year and a half of work. Carnations business was denied, as there are some concerns over their licenses for the people who said that they would be on site as workers. We have a meeting scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> to meet with their attorney on the application and the type of business and the expectations of it.

71- South Shore Drive was approved to be a apartment building with 72 luxury units, and will have 8 units for affordable housing. This will be starting in the spring, Catherine Street residents met with Vigliotti Construction and Len Fasano regarding this development. There was a mutual agreement for set set-back of trees and other noise barriers.

Commissioner Tarducci mentioned that the preserved areas will not be touched. Residents would still have their privacy in their backyards. All residents are happy.

495-Short Beach Road- is a 4story indoor storage facility. There were permits from 2017 that have expired in 2018. Diamond Marina is working to get the same proposal approved.

Whispering Pines- Approved & purchased Property on Pinto Drive. This is a 32 unit facility and will be called Whispering Fields. Whispering Pines continues to work with the Town to continue to help residents with assisted living.

Laurel St- Tivoli Gardens has a 5year extension to build buildings #3 & 4 has they are expanding, making more housing available. No date has to when construction will start.

Fiesta Grill-75 Frontage Rd. is a new restaurant with a kitchen, Bar, and will have live entertainment . Michelle will reach out to the health department and make sure that they are good to go.

Commissioner Tarducci added that there is one more application Autum Ridge which is a 66 de-attached homes and 5 additional single family this will help add to the tax base.

Michelle Benivegna said we also have a new nail salon located at 200 Kimberly Avenue don't believe it's open yet but on our list.

50-Brown Street opened as Streets Lobster it is a smoked Lobster shack.

9 Foxon Blvd. -a new convenience store has been approved and we will be reaching out to the new owners to have a ribbon cutting.

Nick's Place the former Apizza Grand has opened for take out only at this time they have not finished there remodeling as of yet. She has reached out to them but has not heard back regarding a ribbon cutting.

Palmero will have their ribbon cutting tomorrow on August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. which is located in the former Smitty's location. Everyone is more than welcome to attend. There will also be a ribbon cutting for the new tequila business -Cancion Tequila on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30p.m. at the Lobster Shack.

7. Other new business to come before the commission.

None at this time.

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano just wanted to mention a few things next Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup>, is the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Lobsterpalooza event held at Anthony's Oceanview tickets are still available until the 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Business showcase on

September 9<sup>th</sup> on the Town green. The Chamber as a new member meeting which will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The last thing to mention is on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Greenway Trial will have a non-profit walk event.

8. Public comment

None

9. Adjournment

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano asked to have a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner John Tarducci made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michelle Antisdel.

No abstentions, none opposed, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly Smith*

Clerk