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Town of East Haven, CT  
Economic Development Commission  
ETV, 230 Main Street, East Haven, CT  
Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:00 PM  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call meeting to order – roll call**

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano called meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Roll call taken by Economic Development Commission Clerk. Quorum present.

**Present:** Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano, Commissioner Steve DeLucia, Commissioner Mohan Chugani.

**Also present:** Michelle Benivegna, Town of East Haven-Economic Development Director  
Tina Hedley, Clerk

**Absent:** Commissioner John Tarducci, Commissioner Michelle Antisdal

**2. Pledge of allegiance**

All stand for pledge.

**3. Approval of past minutes (3/9/23)**

Motion made by Commissioner Steve DeLucia to approve last month's meeting minutes from March 9, 2023, Commissioner Mohan Chugani 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. No abstentions, none opposed, motion carries.

**4. Correspondence**

Director of Economic Development, Michelle Benivegna mentioned correspondence from Tesla regarding the chargers, she will provide next month.

Michelle Benivegna also read an email/comment from Mr. Kevin Oleary, Calabro Cheese, Calabro will be closing their storefront April 28<sup>th</sup> and thanked the Town for their support.

**5. Director's report**

Michelle Benivegna reports that we have been busy. She recently spent the day with East Haven High School video/tech students filming promotional videos at Transylvania, ETV, One World, Minervini's and Goodys Hardware. Pictures have been posted of the day. The video itself is 8 minutes long, and they're trying to make mini videos per business visited. Once the draft/s is complete it will all be shared with commission and public.

After talking with schools and looking at job fairs out there already it just wasn't viable to do the job fair so we will not be hosting one.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> Michelle gave a presentation to New Haven Chamber of Commerce event. It was about a 30- minute slide show highlighting East Haven, what rebranding was done through beautification and its demographics. This will be shared on the town's website and social media.

The hotel on frontage road, the future Hilton - Home 2 Suites owners gave the town a hold harmless agreement allowing our Police/Fire to conduct training in the empty building. Demo started on this hotel property on Frontage rd. Will provide a timeline as we progress on this site.

Planning & Zoning; March 21<sup>st</sup> a vote was had for text amendment for new zoning district, failed to pass. Moratorium expires June 30<sup>th</sup>. Prohibiting use of cannabis - text amendment meeting to be held in June. 494 Short Beach Road, Storage Facility, site plan was approved, no business name yet.

75 Frontage Road, a Café Restaurant with conditions was approved, no business name yet.

Sandpiper changed ownership on 4/11/2023, staff and menu are remaining the same.

The Lodge, on Silver Sands Road on beach club grounds will have a ribbon cutting on 4/28/23.

Nicks Place on Coe Avenue, former Pizza Grande, is awaiting Liquor License, I'm helping them to navigate this process.

HomeGoods is moving to North Haven, TJ Maxx will be expanding into the HomeGoods space, within its store. They moved to North Haven due to the opening of the HOME store. They typically move near competitors.

Carnations on Main Street was closed by the Health Department.

Shoreline greenway Trail broke ground, 2.5 miles going from Elliott Street to Cosey Beach Ave. Its moving very quickly. This project has beautified the area, sidewalks making a busy street safer for pedestrians.

As mentioned, Calabro Cheese closing storefront portion.

New business, 332 Main Street business – KOKing, a boxing business, I'm in the process of reaching out to see if they want to do a ribbon cutting and talk to the Chamber as well to organize. We have a letter we send to new businesses.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia asked how many floors the Frontage Road Hilton will have, Michelle said maybe four floors she believes. Steve asked about a finish date. It was delayed, Michelle will look into it and get back to the commission.

Commissioner Steve DeLucia asked about 75 Frontage Road and what unit it was. Michele Benivegna thinks it's the older Chinese Buffett, or nearby, it holds 128 seats it has to be a larger suite.

Commissioner Steve Delucia makes a motion to accept the directors report, Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. No abstentions, none opposed, motion carries.

**6. Other new business to come before the commission.**

Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano asked for any new business.

Chairwoman Lorrie wanted to talk about a few Chamber happenings, next Chamber pop up is May 25<sup>th</sup> at Mediterranean Bistro. The Golf tournament is going to be a big event June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lyman.

The chamber and the town have been working together for grand openings in town. Also, August 16<sup>th</sup> is Lobsterpalooza. The annual Chamber dinner is coming up on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

No other business.

**7. Public comment**

No public comment

**8. Adjournment**

Commissioner Steve Delucia makes a motion to adjourn, Chairwoman Lorrie Maiorano 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

No abstentions, none opposed, motion carries.

7:23pm, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Tina Hedley*  
Clerk