

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
ONLINE VIA GOTOMEETING
WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2020
APPROVED MINUTES
*Approved as Submitted at the 9 September 2020 Meeting***

ATTENDANCE

X	Prem Aithal, Vice Chairman
X	Kate Anderson, Chairman
X	Cortney Emschwiler Swokla
X	Mike Farina
X	David Law
X	Mark Lundgren
X	Cindy MacNeil Sola
X	Robin Munster
A	John Pember
X	Doreen Staskelunas, Secretary
A	Bob McGarry, First Selectman
X	Kristy Benson, Market Master, Higganum Farmers' Market (Left 7:00 p.m.)
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson, chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Agenda

Add: Under New Business – b. Town Maintenance.

MOTION: Mike Farina motioned to approve the 8 July 2020 agenda as amended. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There was no one from the public in attendance.

5. Old Business

a. Higganum Farmers' Market – Update

Ms. Anderson reported due to the inclement weather, the market scheduled for Friday, 3 July 2020, was cancelled and there is concern about the weather (rainy) for this Friday, 10 July 2020. Ms. Anderson stated Ms. Benson has put out a poll on Facebook to see if people would be interested in attending if it's lightly raining.

Ms. Benson asked about the orange traffic/safety cones. Ms. Anderson stated they will need to be picked up from Public Works and then return. Ms. Anderson will contact Chris Corsa, Assistant Director of Public Works, to coordinate this matter. Ms. Benson stated if this Friday's weather cooperates, everyone is still interested in participating – currently there are 24 vendors who have signed up to attend – four food vendors and the rest tent vendors as well as one food truck – GMonkey (vegan and vegetarian). Ms. Benson

reported the sanitation facilities are under control and she has spoken to the resident state trooper (traffic – vehicular/pedestrian) and the people at Higgies (no plan made; just aware of what's happening).

Mr. Aithal stated he still needs to work on the website (should be able to accomplish sometime next week). Ms. Benson stated she has the full list of vendors and placed it on the Facebook page. A brief discussion followed in regard to spreading the word about the market which in turn will support the vendors and the sites that information has been shared on.

Discussion followed in regard to the following: potential use of the school for rainy market days only; whether the vendors would be interested in going inside on a rainy day (would need to be contacted first and some vendors feel safer outside); whether access can be gained to the school (yes); using the gym area; State restrictions on the number of people allowed within a building (under the restrictions would not be allow-able); and timely notification of cancellation to vendors (early notification appreciated).

Mr. Aithal stated more volunteers are needed and that a signup sheet was previously emailed to everyone. Mr. Aithal noted there are time slots so people do not have to stay for the entire market. Ms. Benson stated she will have a volunteer signup sheet available at the market, all volunteers will have name tags, and she has one vendor who has signed up for the entire market season who needs assistance in setting up and breaking down. Mr. Lundgren suggested posting a notice for volunteers on the Mucket Madness Day Facebook page.

Mr. Aithal thanked Ms. Benson for all she has accomplished thus far. Mr. Aithal also acknowledged Greg McKenna, Nutmeg Pharmacy, for donating two large containers of hand sanitizer to the farmers' market. Ms. Anderson stated there are some great businesses in town that continually support a lot of endeavors in town and Mr. McKenna is one of them.

b. Mucket

Ms. Anderson reported at their last meeting the Commission voted to allocate \$1,000 for the purchase of statues; and Mr. Lundgren had brought up a very good point that he wanted to make sure it was allowable for the Commission to purchase a statue and donate it to Greg McKenna, Nutmeg Pharmacy, who had donated significant funds to start this project. Ms. Anderson reported she has a question into First Selectman Bob McGarry who is awaiting a response from the town attorney. Ms. Anderson stated in speaking to Mr. McGarry, he didn't see a problem and would support the purchase, but will seek a legal opinion.

Ms. Anderson reported the statue company did submit an invoice and that it will be paid out of the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget.

Mr. Lundgren stated an accounting of funds received (donated and raised) will need to be submitted to the Board of Finance (BOF) as EDC is a public entity. Ms. Anderson stated EDC applied for a Pilot Grant through National Main Street Center (parent program of Connecticut Main Street Center) and all fund raising was done through the non-profit fund raising agency (Town of Haddam never collected money; Mr. McKenna's money went to this entity). Mr. Lundgren asked if the entity matched the fund raising effort with Ms. Anderson and Mrs. Munster stating yes. Mr. Lundgren asked if it was a match to the full amount or only the \$1,500. Ms. Anderson stated they matched up to a certain amount and EDC funding was approximately \$300-\$350. The money raised, as well as EDC's contribution, was for the design of the mucket. Mr. Lundgren stated he reviewed the minutes which indicate approximately \$2,800 was raised in the fund raising effort and they would match up to \$1,500. Mrs. Sola stated \$1,500 sounds right in regard to the matching. Ms. Anderson stated the \$2,800 would have included the matching fund. Mr. Lundgren asked that someone please speak to Mr. McKenna regarding this matter. Mrs. Sola stated when Mr. McKenna asked about the mucket, she explained the statues are expected in August and the event planned was cancelled in light of the pandemic. Mrs. Sola also stated Mr. McKenna said he would like to do something small and make it safe for distancing on the day of Mucket Madness and the reasoning that it's important to him is that he has an artist lined up to paint his mucket. Mr. Lundgren stated his point is Mr. McKenna asked how the money was spent and that's what he needs to be assured of.

Mrs. Sola asked the Commission if they would like her to speak to Mr. McKenna; and if so, could she be provided with a delivery date. Ms. Anderson stated she will find out an approximate delivery date and contact Mrs. Sola.

6. New Business

a. August Meeting

Ms. Anderson proposed that the 12 August 2020 meeting be cancelled.

MOTION: Prem Aithal motioned to cancel the 12 August 2020 meeting. Mike Farina second. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Town Maintenance

Ms. Anderson reported she has heard from a couple of people voicing general concerns about the maintenance of some town owned properties (looking overgrown). Ms. Anderson noted Mrs. Sola had reached out as well as Bill Warner, Town Planner, who has contacted Public Works (noted in his report). Mrs. Sola stated it's always been an issue and doesn't understand who takes care of these buildings citing the gazebo, Community Center, Haddam Elementary School (HES), and Routes 154 and 81. Mr. Lundgren stated it has always been the responsibility of the assistant director of Public Works. Discussion followed in regard to who (first selectman) can initiate Public Works to maintain the properties; HES property being a new addition to the scope of work (may have fallen through the cracks); the town wide lawn mowing bid; cleaning up of trash at HES (the need for trash cans; only one trash can towards the rear of the building), and maintenance of the Higganum Green and along the side of the roads. Mr. Law stated Park & Rec will be having the HES playground equipment inspected. Mrs. Munster noted there are grant programs where trash cans can be purchased for town centers – would need to do regular trash and recycling, but would need Public Works to buy into the program. Mr. Lundgren stated the town would need to expect people to deposit their household trash into these containers. Mrs. Munster stated this topic has been brought up by the Sustainability Committee and she will speak to Kristin Battistoni, Sustainability Committee member, next week regarding this matter and will report back in September.

Ms. Anderson will discuss this matter at the next BOS meeting, Monday, 13 July 2020.

7. Chairman's Report

Ms. Anderson reported on the following: **Town Planner's Report** - Mrs. Batzner had forwarded on Bill Warner's report (five page copy on file in the Town Clerk's Office with the minutes) and did not plan on going over it unless there were questions. **Higgies** – It's opened! **Town Hearing/Public Meeting** – Monday, 27 July 2020 – Revisions to the town's Charter. The other half of the meeting is in regard to a vacancy on the Board of Education (BOE). This spot has been vacant for a while. **Higganum Cove** – Mr. Farina asked for an update regarding ownership of the Cove (heard there was to be a property swap to the Haddam Land Trust, but now the town may be taking ownership) noting the Gateway Commission had some concern over this as they had intended to make a donation. Mr. Lundgren stated he had originally approached the Gateway to help fund Mucket Madness Day; but when that was cancelled, asked them to repurpose the funding for work at the Cove. At that point, it was Mr. Lundgren's understanding that the town owned the Cove. Mr. Farina briefly discussed funding the Gateway Commission has and their application process. Ms. Anderson stated Mr. Warner has a funding request into Gateway. Mr. Farina stated he's aware and it may have been sent back over the potential transfer of the property.

8. Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the 12 February 2020 minutes – page 1, Item #4 Presentation – Connecticut Main Street, second paragraph, second line – change “how” to “who” and page 6, Item #c. Higganum Farmers' Market, second paragraph - change “higgframersmarket.com” to “higgfarmersmarket.com”.

MOTION: Mark Lundgren motioned to approve the 12 February 2020 minutes as amended. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried with Mrs. Munster abstaining.

Correction to the 11 March 2020 minutes – page 3, Item #a. Mucket Madness Day, last paragraph, sixth line - change - “Edith Pawlicki” to “Helen Hanson”.

MOTION: Mike Farina motioned to approve the 11 March 2020 minutes as amended. Doreen Staskelunas second. Motion carried with Mrs. Sola abstaining.

Corrections to the 8 April 2020 minutes – page 2, Item #7a. Higganum Farmers' Market, first paragraph, first line – change “Agricultural” to “Agriculture” and page 3, Item # b. Mucket Madness Day, first paragraph, third line – change “Christine Melnick” to “Kristin Melnick”.

MOTION: Cindy Sola motioned to approve the 8 April 2020 minutes as amended. David Law second. Motion carried with Mr. Aithal abstaining.

13 May 2020 and 10 June 2020 Minutes – The Commission agreed to table the approval of the minutes until the September meeting.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Cindy Sola motioned to adjourn. Prem Aithal second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 September 2020.