

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2022
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Kate Anderson, Chairman
A	Cortney Emshwiller Swokla
X	Mike Farina
A	David Law
A	Mark Lundgren
A	Robin Munster
X	John Pember
X	Doreen Staskelunas, Secretary
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON WITH A VIRTUAL CALL-IN OPTION VIA GOTOMEETING.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson, chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Using her laptop, Ms. Anderson opened the call-in feature and left it open throughout the meeting. No one used the option.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Agenda

Add: Under Old Business – d. Holiday Decorations

MOTION: Doreen Staskelunas motioned to approve the 12 January 2022 agenda as amended. John Pember second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There was no one from the public in attendance.

5. New Business

a. Town Hall Event Planning Meeting – Wednesday, 9 February 2022

Ms. Anderson reported the event planning meeting will take place during the Commission's regularly scheduled February meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to try to coordinate with all boards, commissions, civic groups, etc., to create one annual events calendar in an attempt to promote all events within town. A press release will be submitted to the Haddam Now and an email sent to those on the current contact list. If anyone knows of a group that may be interested in this meeting, please let them know of the date, time, and location.

6. Old Business

a. CT Communities Challenge Grant – Update

Ms. Anderson reported the application has been prepared, signed, and is ready for submission. Winners should be notified in April. Ms. Anderson stated if Haddam does not win a grant this time around, there is a second round. Ms. Anderson also stated if the town has to finance some of the projects, it will only take longer to complete them, but the plan is to move things along.

b. Tylerville Construction Planning Updates – Continued Discussion

105 Bridge Road - Ms. Anderson reported P&Z will be meeting on Thursday, 20 January 2022 to hear a request for a special permit for 42 multi-family units, 105 Bridge Road.

Scovil Hoe Buildings – Although not in Tylerville, Ms. Anderson reported \$1.8 million has been received from DECD to remediate the Scovil Hoe buildings. The buildings will be adaptively reused as shops, galleries, offices, and/or a full service restaurant to support the revitalization of Higganum Center.

c. Muckets – Arrival - Update

Ms. Anderson reported the two large Muckets have arrived and are currently being stored at HES; however, the company will need to be contacted as the mini Muckets were not shipped. The Muckets have a smooth surface which will allow them to be painted. Greg McKenna will receive one of the large Muckets as he was instrumental in providing seed money to assist with this project. EDC will work with Mr. McKenna regarding a Mucket Day celebration.

d. Holiday Decorations

Ms. Anderson thanked Mrs. Staskelunas and Mr. Law for helping to take down the decorations on the gazebo. Ms. Anderson reported she took a number of photos so everyone can be aware of how things were put up.

Ms. Anderson reported decorations will be going up earlier next year as she would like to have a lighting event on the Saturday after Thanksgiving 2022. Ms. Anderson explained how the Carlsons have always lit the Christmas tree on Thanksgiving night and will not change this tradition. Ms. Anderson will reach out to the Lions Club to see if they would be interested in helping put up/take down the streetscape decorations. Ms. Anderson apologized for not following through in contacting Garrick York, York Tree, to put up the decorations this past Christmas.

7. Chairman's Report

Ms. Anderson reported on the following: **Higganum: Roadrunner Café** – Is closed. Unclear as to what happened. Noted that Mr. McKenna owns the building. **Community Septic** – Currently in the design phase. Dept. of Public Health is on board with the project. **Phantom Brewery** – Still in the works. **Rossi Property** – Remediation work continues. A town meeting would need to be held before the town could purchase the property. **H-K Fitness** – Open House, Saturday, 15 January 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tylerville: Lisa Wadge, Tylerville Plaza – Ms. Wadge is looking for two restaurants to fill vacancies created by the closure of The Nook and The Cooking Company.

Haddam: Jail – There is nothing new to report at this time.

Miscellaneous: Town Meeting – Thursday, 27 January 2022 – The town has a \$1.3 million surplus and would like to transfer this to the General Fund. Also would like to use \$60,000 of the COVID Relief Funds to outfit the fire house and Town Hall with electronics to conduct hybrid meetings. **Cell Phone Towers** –

Believe there's discussion with Verizon, but will follow up with Bob McGarry, First Selectman, on this matter and report back. **Town Wide Tag Sale** – Mr. Farina asked if anyone knew when this event will be held. Ms. Anderson stated this is a Junior Women's event and Karen Revis has been the contact in the past. Mr. Farina stated St. Peter's Church will be holding a tag sale the end of May. **Town Clerk** – Scott Brookes' last day as town clerk was 1/2/2022 and Bobby Siegrist began his term on 1/3/2022. **Town Clerk's Assistant** – Ann Riebold will be retiring effective 4/1/2022. This job will be posted. **Building Official** – Bob Ruzzo was recently hired has the town's new building official and has been very busy. **ZEO/WEO** – A couple of people have expressed interest in the position and interviews will be held. **COVID** – The numbers are skyrocketing.

EDC – Member Openings– Mr. Pember asked about the status of openings. Ms. Anderson stated she encourages interested individuals to sit in on a meeting or two to get a feel for the Commission and notes that it's a three year term.

8. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Kate Anderson motioned to approve the 10 November 2021 minutes as submitted. Doreen Staskelunas second. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission agreed to table the approval of the 13 October 2021 and the 8 December 2021 minutes.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Kate Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Doreen Staskelunas second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 February 2022,
and will be held in-person at the Community Center, 7 Candlewood Hill Road, Higganum.**