

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
VIA GOTOMEETING
WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021
APPROVED MINUTES
*Approved as Submitted at the 10 March 2021 Meeting***

ATTENDANCE

X	Prem Aithal, Vice Chairman
X	Kate Anderson, Chairman
A	Cortney Emschwiller Swokla
X	Mike Farina
X	David Law
X	Mark Lundgren
A	Cindy MacNeil Sola
X	Robin Munster
X	John Pember
A	Doreen Staskelunas, Secretary
A	Bob McGarry, First Selectman
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson, chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Prem Aithal motioned to approve the 10 February 2021 agenda as submitted. Mark Lundgren second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment

There was no one from the public in attendance at this time.

5. Old Business

Ms. Anderson apologized for not having completed the tasks she was to have provided information on but will have for the March meeting. Work to continue on the association and planning of projects/events.

6. New Business

a. Budget

I. Remaining for 2020-2021 and Request for 2021-2022

No update was given.

b. 2021 EDC Activities/Events Calendar

Farmers' Market – Ms. Anderson, Mr. Aithal, and Kristy Benson, Market Master, have met to discuss the upcoming season. The market will continue to be held on Fridays (17 have been scheduled) beginning

4 June through 20 August, a three week break will be taken, and market will resume on 17 September through 15 October. Hours of operation: 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Noted that Cromwell will be reinstating their farmers' market this year and it too will be held on Fridays. Mr. Aithal reported the reasoning behind taking the three week break is due to the decline in attendance (dropped from 250-400 to 100-150) during that time frame. It's believed the decline may be due to end of summer vacations and going back to school. Ms. Anderson stated vendor rates will be slightly increased (less than Cromwell by half); however, a renewal rate will be offered to returning vendors as means of a thank you. The plan is to continue having the market at Haddam Elementary School (HES); but, Adelbrook continues to have interest in HES and it is unclear whether or not this will create a change in location for the market. Discussion followed in regard to possible alternative locations – the Higganum Green and the Community Center parking lot; the Haddam Meadows (the exchange of money for goods is not allowed by the state; it is allowed for River Days because it is community driven); and the need for volunteers (not just EDC members). Mr. Aithal will set up a SignUpGenius with dates and time slots for helping at the market. Mr. Aithal stated he did reach out to the principal of the high school regarding students volunteering (community service hours) at the market and is awaiting an answer. Ms. Anderson stated there will be theme days, live music, demonstrations, as well as trying to tie things together with other community events. Ms. Anderson also stated Mrs. Benson will be taking a state certification course in order to accept Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP) vouchers. Farms need to be certified by the state (Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture's Farmer's Nutrition Program) to accept these vouchers. A certified farm out of Glastonbury will be a full season vendor this year. Mr. Law asked about having playground monitors who will watch children while parents are shopping. Ms. Anderson stated although a good idea, the playground equipment was deemed unsafe after an audit and it's unclear how much repairs would cost or if new equipment would need to be purchased. Also discussed was the need for proper training for the monitors.

River Days - Ms. Anderson reported this is covered by a separate line item from the EDC budget and traditionally \$10,000 is allocated. Mrs. Munster will take care of submitting the DEEP application for the use of Haddam Meadows.

Mucket Days – Ms. Anderson asked Mr. Lundgren if he would like to discuss this matter. Mr. Lundgren stated there is no funding for the event. Mr. Lundgren stated the tractor parade would probably be the easiest event to pull together. Ms. Anderson stated EDC may be able to assist with funding between this year's budget and next year's. Mr. Lundgren will provide an update.

Grimm's Haunted House – Ms. Anderson reported that Chuck Cook, founder of Grimm's Haunted House, was hoping to be able to move this event over to HES, but it's unclear at this time. Mr. Lundgren reported that Mr. Cook as well as his two partners have been working to create additional displays for this year's event.

Town Wide Tag Sale – Mr. Farina asked when this event will be held. Ms. Anderson reported the Haddam Junior Women's Club will be holding their annual event on Saturday, 22 May 2021.

St. Peter's Church Tag Sale – Mr. Farina stated St. Peter's Church will be conducting a tag sale on the same day.

Holiday Decorations – Linking Tylerville and Higganum Center – Mrs. Munster stated since Tylerville and Higganum Center will be decorated for the holidays, she would like to try to get the houses and businesses along Saybrook Road to decorate for the season. Mr. Law suggested having Santa ride on a fire truck from one end of town to the other in an attempt to draw people out. Mr. Lundgren stated in years past, Marge DeBold had created a contest and perhaps this is something that could be reinstated. Mr. Law also spoke in regard to the naming of snow plows (done in England and/or Scotland). A brief discussion followed in regard to tying this in with a tree lighting ceremony.

Seasonal Flags – Mr. Farina asked if it would be possible to purchase seasonal flags for Tylerville and Higganum Center. A brief discussion followed in regard to cost and installation. To be looked into.

Shred It, Saturday, 8 May 2021 – Ms. Anderson reported that EDC will be co-sponsoring this event. Cost to hold the event is approximately \$750. A donation of \$5 will be requested and funds raised will stay in town to assist with the food bank, fuel bank, or a similar cause. Hopefully, in the future, event dates will be more consistent. Mrs. Munster stated this is a part of Public Works and suggested Ms. Anderson speak to Chris Corsa, Assistant Director of Public Works.

7. Chairman's Report

Ms. Anderson reported on the following: **HES, 272 Saybrook Road** – Adelbrook is very interested in the building. Until a decision is made, Bill Warner, Town Planner, will continue to rent the facility out. Noted that a pipe burst in the stairwell near the gym and there was minimal damage. **Rossi, 300 Saybrook Road** – As part of the Board of Selectmen's due diligence, a Phase 1 environmental study has been conducted and it turned up 20 areas of concern which is not surprising given the heavy industrial use on the site; therefore, these areas of concern have to be investigated further. Rossi has hired a consultant to conduct further testing and the town's consultant will oversee those tests. Due to the additional testing required, an extension to the contract has been granted. The potential purchase of the property cannot take place until it is taken to a town vote. **Community Septic** – This project can still move forward even if the town does not purchase the Rossi property as it will be located on the HES property. **Former Citizens Bank, 6 Killingworth Road** – Continues to remain empty. **Steady Habit Brewing, 201 Saybrook Road** – Does not seem to be moving forward. **The Truck Bar, 66 Killingworth Road** – Business appears to be doing well and they have a cornhole tournament scheduled. **Goodspeed Tattoo, 310 Saybrook Road** – This business appears to have moved into the former Fork in the Road site. Mr. Farina stated that an objection has been filed in regard to P&Z's approval. **Swan Hill** – Mr. Farina reported that the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) approached the Gateway Commission for grant money to survey the property. Gateway granted \$5,000, Rockfall Foundation granted \$1,500, and another organization \$1,500. **Higganum Cove** – New line item has been added to the 2021-2022 budget for annual clearing of brush at the Cove. Mr. Law noted there is a lot of graffiti on site and the need for patrolling the area. Ms. Anderson stated there is a group dedicated to fixing up the site and making it more community and people friendly. Mr. Farina stated the Gateway can assist in eliminating invasive plants. **Connecticut River – Potential Designation** - Discussion followed in regard to the potential of the Connecticut River (currently one of only 14 American Heritage Rivers, 1997; and America's first and only National Blueway, 2012) being designated a Great American River.

8. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: David Law motioned to approve the 14 October 2020, 19 November 2020, and 9 December 2020 minutes as submitted and the 13 January 2021 minutes as amended – page 2, first paragraph, third to last line – change “meet” to “meeting”. Mark Lundgren second. Motion carried unanimously with Mr. Pember and Mrs. Munster abstaining on the November and January minutes.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: John Pember motioned to adjourn. Robin Munster second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 10 March 2021.