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Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

March, 4, 2020

Attendees:

C. Aliman
C. Robinson
B. Sirowich
Roxanna Finley (Alternate)

ITEM 1

- Call to Order at 7:11pm

ITEM 2

- Pledge of Allegiance by all

ITEM 3

- No public comment

ITEM 4

- February Minutes: Add Alternate R. Finley to attendees. B. Sirowich moved to accept minutes. C. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed

ITEM 5/6

- Strategic Plan/2020 Goals: Discussion to have prospective EDC Consultant prioritize goals. Suggested that working hours and salary be approved by Selectmen. C. Robinson moved to send letter of recommendation along with Strategic Plan to 1st Selectman to hire Sheila O'Malley. B. Sirowich seconded the motion. The motion passed

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1st Selectman provided report to EDC Chair from the company Advance CT with a request for EDC to review and determine if Seymour could use something similar. The report is a map of steps that a prospective business must take to set up shop in Beacon Falls. The Advance CT report was prepared by the former Seymour EDC Consultant who had worked for CERC. C. Aliman acknowledged that Seymour's EDC had suggested the same previously. It was agreed that C. Robinson would use the report as a guide for Seymour and send to EDC members for input.
- Email to C. Aliman from Wilflour Confections announcing their 5th Anniversary and asking EDC to attend an all-day celebration on Saturday, March 7, 2020. C. Robinson and B. Sirowich will attend on behalf of EDC.

NEW BUSINESS

- Olives & Oil management would like to organize a Meet and Greet happy hour for business owners, per B. Sirowich. It was agreed that this undertaking should be coordinated by the prospective EDC Consultant.
- Tea with Tracy is opening a new location in Oxford, CT. There was discussion about whether the Seymour location would remain open. C. Aliman read from the business's social media and it appears that the new location in Oxford will operate in addition to the Seymour location.
- Housatonic Wire Co, according to B. Sirowich, still has hopes of opening a self-storage facility
- The Vault will open soon at the old bank building.

ITEM 7

- Rory Burke came into the EDC meeting to seeking to understand how EDC plans align with the goals set forth by the Town. There was discussion around the EDC Strategic Plans and how it should be driven by our prospective EDC Consultant. Discussed some of the roadblocks, challenges and opportunities, as seen by EDC and R. Burke. R. Burke emphasized the need for a list of targeted sites for development, something that EDC had asked for on prior occasions. It was suggested that a business owner from Downtown Seymour be appointed as an Alternate on EDC in order to bridge the gap between the town and business community. C. Robinson moved to make it so. C. Aliman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ITEM 9

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm