

TOWN OF MONROE
Economic Development Commission
7 Fan Hill Road
Monroe, Connecticut 06468

MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2020
Monroe Town Hall Conference Room 204

Present: Raymond Giovanni
Nicole Lupo
Christine Whittenauer
Mary Hull
Dave Kuban
Selectman Ken Kellogg

Meeting started at 7:03 PM.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion of POCD 2020
 - i. Sewer Feasibility Study budgeted (per Selectman Ken Kellogg).

III. Chairman's Update

- a. February 6th – CT Dance 30th year anniversary and working on putting together an event.
- b. Norcum Mortgage-(Audra Santos) wants to do a ribbon cutting. Date slated for April 4th.
- c. Restaurant Week- John Murphy from the Monroe Food Pantry contacted Ray Giovanni and can we tie them into this event. Ideas: Collecting food at each participating restaurant. We could provide the boxes for the restaurants.
- d. 257 homes sold in Monroe in 2019 which was an increase of 6.6% over previous year. Average sale went up 2.3% to \$379,500 over 2018.

IV. New Business

- a. EDC Budget Discussion FY20-21
 - i. Maintaining restaurant week
 - ii. March 14th Event to focus on retail business as well as restaurants.
 - 1. Give balloons to merchants. They would put them on the outside/ sidewalk to let people know they are participating. They would need to fill them and offer a raffle prize.
 - 2. Advertise in local papers.
 - 3. Community members will pop balloons to see if they win the raffle prize.
 - 4. Going door to door to address businesses.
 - 5. Need to put together flyer.
 - 6. Do lawn signs for the event.
 - iii. Maintaining annual brokers luncheon at Whitney Farms in the month of June.
- b. 2020 EDC Meeting Schedule

- i. Motion made by Mary Hall to have meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month starting February 2020 and up to and including January 2021. Mary made motion and seconded by Christine Whittenauer and approved by Dave Kuban, Nicole Lupo and Ray Giovanni.
- c. Internship Program
 - i. Superintendent presented idea of having internship program with our local businesses in town. We can help facilitate but need to understand if this is a school program then the school would need to figure out the logistics. Will initiate a conversation with superintendent over the next few months.

V. First Selectman's Update

- a. CEDAS – Review of the Best Practices Awards Application. Several commissions can be apart of this process.
- b. CEDS: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Discussion of supporting this strategy. Drives getting regional funding for supporting this. MetroCog would like to get a meeting with EDC and Monroe Chamber of Commerce.
- c. CT Conference of Municipalities- Organization that shares resources, consulting, data and research that as a member we can access. Upcoming training program- Newtown February 13th AM 9:00 AM to Noon at Newtown Community Center.
- d. Aubuchon Hardware has their building permit and is ready to move forward.
- e. New Yoga studio – Full Circle opening in Clock Tower Square making that development full.
- f. Hair by Doris has moved has Waves and Shaves.
- g. Lifelong Wellness Counseling LLC – 755 Main Street is opening.
- h. Center 111 on Route 111- Jennies is expanding and World Nails and Spa opened.
- i. 547 Wine moving forward at the old Goodwill site.
- j. Monroe Pizza working on opening in Stevenson.
- k. Discussion of EDC committee members being liaison for helping businesses/ developers in town with moving forward on their requests / applications.
- l. Movement in old Stevenson Lumbar continues to move forward.
- m. Website: Adding available properties in Monroe. Contracting out and how we can get it to work on our site and what the cost is. Will look for opportunities on how we can accomplish this.

VI. Adjournment at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Lupo
Secretary