

# Economic Development Commission

Town Hall - Room 1 Town Hall

Wednesday, Jan 18, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of the Economic Development Commission are recorded

## Location: Town Hall Auditorium

All meetings of the Economic Development Commission are recorded except Executive Session

Date of this meeting: Jan 18, 2023

Meeting Notice: This meeting held Pursuant to Chapter 20, Acts of 2021 Hybrid Meetings Until The Economic Development Commission has a been provided with Zoom equipment it will continue to be in-person only and recorded via VoiceTracer Digital Voice Recorder and then placed on the Town Web page after the meeting

### **ATTENDANCE:**

- Michael McMahon
- Serena Fuller
- Craig Samuelsen
- Jack Cote

### **Public Comments**

Inga Hoteling

Diane Gale

Burt Hansen- Chair of Agricultural Commission

### **Old Business**

**Burt Hansen Chair of Agricultural Commission** - First Farmers Forum was held at the Southwick Public Library with the mission in place to support our Town Farmers. In attendance were 20 local compassionate Farmers with the same mission. Many valuable inputs were brought to the table and the turnout was graciously more than anticipated. Follow-ups are being conducted and Grant workshops such as Conservation of Land and Succession Planning are being formed with the Library. The Local Famers are requesting that The Agricultural Commission support the Farmers and their Farming businesses. The Agricultural Commission is asking the Economic Development Commission for support in this request. The Agricultural Commission is hosting Open Farm Day this coming August 2023 along with other possible upholding events. AgCom would like the Economic Development's assistance in finding the best way to promote these events that are much like Small Business Saturday previously hosted by EDC. Guest's Inga Hoteling and Diane Gale gave ideas and spoke on past events that they has successfully ran. The Next Agricultural Commission meeting will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7 P.M.

**Inga Hoteling Guest-** Is looking for the Commission's approval in hosting a second annual Shop Small, Shop Local event for end of the year 2023. She would like to start getting this event approved and in the early planning stages so that by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 EDC can have more involvement from a larger group of locally owned businesses.

- **Changes and business developments in town-**

**74 College Highway-** This land was purchased for the purpose of building a marijuana grow facility. The land is now in the processes of changing ownership, more information will be provided as it becomes available.

**185 College Highway-** Real estate has been purchased for \$500,000.00

**800 College Highway-** This space is now occupied by a group of Medical Professionals who have their Doctorate of Nursing. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**6 Juniper Rd-** Diane Gale ( meeting guest) Spoke on the new Art Studio Inspired that has leased more space that was available at her location for Classes and additional classroom space, Firing, and Glazing in sections one and two. The third section is going to be used to sell handmade items made at the shop. Inspired is having a Grand Opening on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Lake Life 101-** Restaurant has had a change in ownership ( the original owner still owns the real estate) It is now going to be a Higher end Steak House.

**New Business:**

The Commission spoke about looking into updating their web page. They have a few options and will look into what is available and what is within budget.

**FY24 Budget** – has been agreed upon and Michael will send it into Accounting.

**Discussion/Decision of the Mission of EDC** – Will be talked about at the next meeting Per Michael McMahon.

**Discussion/Approval of meeting Minutes-** Michael McMahon advised the Commission Members to take all the available minutes home to look for the next meeting. (Minutes date back to April 2022)

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia Barton

*Cynthia Barton*