Town of North Canaan  
Economic Development Committee  
April 18, 2024

Present: Chris Tripler, Bob Riva via zoom, Wil Perotti

Acting Chair Tripler called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and established quorum.

**Mr. Tripler moved to accept the minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting. Mr. Riva seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Mr. Tripler did an overview and makeup of the EDC. Although he has resigned, he is staying on as acting Chairman until more members fill the vacancies and a new chair is designated. Membership should be 7. The Selectman voted last month to add Kyle Considine to the board and has interest from Andrew Pelletier as well. This leaves another vacancy. There is other interest that could potentially fill the committee. The Selectmen do appoint the individuals for the vacancies.

The ordinance that was drafted several months ago establishing the committee to a commission needs to be resurrected and acted on. Mr. Tripler will forward to all of the selectmen a copy of the draft.

Last year the EDC wrote a letter in support of the Honey Hill Project. This project is still in progress. Selectman Ohler explained about the withdrawal of the project in order for them to proceed with the proper channels. The Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing for this project on April 22nd at 7:00pm. The EDC committee members agree it would be a great benefit to the town and they could attend hearings/meetings to show further support.

The health care center will be opening next month. They are working on the final things. There was a discussion regarding how this center could draw people into town. Suggestion that an article/opinion piece be submitted to the newspaper or just a statement for the town website. Selectman Ohler suggested they do a letter welcoming the center to the town and offering resources and support. **Mr. Riva moved to develop a welcome letter to send to the health center. Mr. Tripler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Possible tax incentive/modifications for businesses - Selectman Whiting gave an overview of the proposal. The town attorney did some modifications to the plan and gave his approval. Selectman Whiting wanted to get the EDC’s approval before moving forward with it. He will resend it to the committee to get feedback. There are stipulations with the plan.
but could be a new or existing business. **Mr. Tripler moved to have the committee review the proposal and prepare for a discussion at the next meeting.** **Mr. Riva seconded the motion. Motion carried.** There was further discussion regarding how this works. Selectman Bunce asked if this plan had been discussed with the tax office to see how that would affect their workload, etc. Selectman Whiting stated that they will work with them if the plan is approved and figure out how to fix issues within that department, if need be, but it would be a good incentive for the town.

Business social: There was one held at Great Falls over a year ago. It was a positive event with a lot of shared information and networking opportunities. The committee agrees it should be done again. Mr. Riva would like to see it done at Lindell’s, but it would maybe be fall time. There was a discussion of a timeframe to hold it. Selectman Ohler stated he has been working on creating an opportunity to have a small business summit and this could be a way to envelop both. Bringing businesses together while also having town officials and state legislators could be beneficial. It would begin with the business aspect/speakers and end as a social. The theater was mentioned as a possible location. If the tax incentive is finalized by then it would be a good opportunity to present it. Committee decided to move forward with this in September. Selectman Ohler will speak with the theater about holding it there and figure out a date.

New Business:

There was a discussion regarding things that are happening in town. The Considine family have a lot of ideas. There is talk of a high-end wine store going in. Hunky Hound Handlers has opened and is doing great. There is an art gallery opening where the yoga studio used to be.

The weekend of May 18 is Springfest located in the municipal parking lot. Along with that the Litchfield Art Festival will be held all weekend at Lawrence Field.

May 11 is the Mother’s Day 5K race.

There was no further business to come before the committee.

**Mr. Tripler moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Riva seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary