

1. Call to Order

The Chester Economic Development Commission held a Special Meeting on Monday, August 18, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Susan Wright called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

2. Roll Call

Those members in attendance were Susan Wright, Patricia Bendzes, Felise Cressman and Michael Sanders.

3. Audience of Citizens - none.

4. Discussion of 2014 Program Initiatives

- Bridge Construction Updates:
 - Merchant Meeting on August 6, 2014
 - Assigning EDC members to meet with merchants regarding Survival Guide and Questionnaire
 - Merchant/CTDOT meeting in September
 - Information flow

Chairman Wright reviewed the list of merchants that still need to be contacted to fill out the questionnaire. Parking and staging area were reviewed.

Chairman Wright noted she and Felise attended a Main Street Project Committee meeting where there was discussion about contacting both landlords and tenants. It was also suggested the marinas be kept in the loop as they send customers into town.

Chairman Wright noted there will be a meeting in October with the merchants and D.O.T. The EDC should meet with the merchants in September to prepare for the October meeting. It was noted the next EDC meeting was September 15th and it was agreed to meet with the merchants on that same night at 7:30 PM.

Chairman Wright reported on the meeting she had with First Selectman Meehan regarding information flow schedule. Members should review the schedule for any changes, either additions or deletions.

Chairman Wright noted she and Felise attended the August 6th Merchants Meeting. They were well received and the Merchants thanked EDC for assisting them through this period of construction. It was agreed there should be a separate set of information for both merchants and customers. This information should also be posted on various websites.

Michael Sanders reviewed various websites and links. He noted the EDC website should be the Gateway for parking, events, etc. It was agreed EDC shouldn't have to maintain and update its website all the time, but rather have links to other websites for appropriate information.

Chairman Wright noted Felise had talked to Chester Elementary School about naming the Town Squirrel. The teachers are always looking for projects. Perhaps the children could do something with Legos for downtown that could be on display in the school or in the shops. Susan noted she will call Legos to see if they would like to donate Legos to the town for this project. Susan will also contact Goodspeed's costume department about sewing a squirrel head.

There was discussion about events and whether or not there would be a winter festival this year.

- Budget

Chairman Wright noted EDC needs to start thinking about the budget and putting some money aside for some of these things. A copy of the budget will be distributed for the next meeting. Perhaps the construction contractor might do a sponsorship for the winter festival.

Names for the website were discussed. It was agreed to use "Chester Open for Business."

- New Business

It was agreed signage should be discussed at the September meeting, as well as parking at the Water Street lot.

Chairman Wright noted she heard back from Madison, Wisconsin who worked with SCORE out there. She also discussed parking and signage with Madison's representative. It was suggested the parking lots be color specific to direct people.

There was a brief discussion regarding the September 15th Meeting Agenda with the merchants. It must be reiterated that EDC is available to assist the merchants, but the merchants need to take the initiative.

5. Approval of Minutes - July

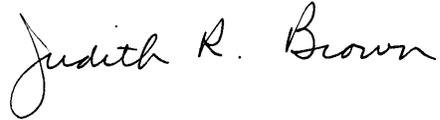
There was a consensus to approve the July meeting minutes.

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6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary