

1. Call to Order

The Chester Economic Development Commission held its monthly meeting on Monday, October 20, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

2. Roll Call

Those in attendance were Susan Wright, Felise Cressman and Patricia Bandzes.

3. Audience of Citizens - none.

4. Discussion of 2014 Program Initiatives

- Bridge Construction Updates

Chairman Wright noted D.O.T. has tentatively scheduled a stakeholders meeting for the Main Street Bridge Replacement for Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. She suggested to First Selectman Meehan that he see if this meeting can be changed due to the fact there is the Chester Rotary Annual Recognition Dinner that night.

Chairman Wright noted she did not get an update on the Water Main replacement project. That project was to have started by now but hasn't. She will check with First Selectman Meehan on the status of that project.

- Merchant Meeting Review from September 15, 2014

Chairman Wright noted she attended the last Merchants Meeting but nothing was brought up about the recent Economic Development Commission meeting with merchants. She will attend the November meeting. Pat Bandzes asked when the Merchants meet. It was noted there is a Merchants Meeting the first Wednesday of every month.

There was a brief discussion regarding some of the upcoming winter events.

- Information Flow

Nothing further on this item at this time. It had been suggested a flyer be prepared indicating what the schedule is for upcoming downtown projects. Hopefully Michael Sanders who has been working on this will attend the next meeting.

- Signage Discussion

There was discussion regarding signage and the signage budget. Signage material and colors were reviewed. It was suggested there be parking signs for North Quarter Park, Water Street Parking Lot and

Maple Street Parking Lot. There will be two Chester Village Center signs. Additional quotes are being obtained for signage. Chairman Wright noted she will be setting up a meeting with Peter Good regarding signage.

- New Business

It was suggested there might be an Eagle Scout Project for the Maple Street Parking Lot walkway (i.e. solar lights, path signage, fix the steps, etc.).

It was noted two restaurants have closed - CABO and 6 Main.

There was a brief discussion regarding F.O.I. rules and regs and what has to be noticed as a public meeting.

There was discussion as to whether or not there is a process in place to assist new businesses wanting to come into town.

Pat Bandzes suggested getting the CT Economic Resource Council to hold a meeting in town with various boards and commissions. Chairman Wright will discuss the possibility of a Spring meeting with First Selectman Meehan.

Pat Bandzes reviewed a recent article she received regarding Main Street Investment Funds which are available for Main Street Projects. Chairman Wright will discuss this with First Selectman Meehan.

There was a brief discussion regarding a website that has information on business space available in local towns.

5. Approval of Minutes - September

The September Minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary