

Chester Economic Development Commission  
Tuesday, February 14, 2022 at 2:00PM  
Minutes- 2/14/22 APPROVED

### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 2:01

### **2. Roll Call**

Attending members: Pat Bandezs, Adam Perl, Susan Wright

Others attending: First Selectwoman Charlene Janecek, Kimberly Megrath, Michael Cressman

### **3. Approval of minutes of 12/14/21 EDC meeting**

Motion to approve and seconded by Pat and Adam, respectively.

### **4. Follow up from 1/10/22 meeting**

#### Chester businesses update

Charlene reported on the general state of the businesses downtown.

#### Available Properties List and Recent Transaction List

Pat completed both reports and they will be posted on the EDC web site. She intends to update them at least quarterly or sooner if a material listing or change occurs.

#### Chester business/commercial database / contacts

Jon obtained a list of the top 20 real estate taxpayers from the 2020 tax rolls from the Assessor's office. The same request as of 2021 will be made to the new assessor who started this week. The joint meetings with Charlene and top businesses will begin after the budget process.

Down County Chamber- meeting first Friday of the month, just started to meet in person. Pat was unable to attend by Charlene did. Nothing material to report except that the Chamber has expressed interest in being of assistance. Charlene to schedule time with Jeff Pugliese.

CCM/ARPA- Pat attended a zoom meeting conducted by attorneys on the technical aspects of ARPA administration.

ARPA meeting- Susan reported on the first monthly meeting of the ARPA committee.

EDC membership- no action

### **5. Chester leadership priorities / EDC/First Selectwomen workshop on EDC priorities**

General discussion regarding the identification of time-sensitive and immediate priorities as well as the many projects previously identified in the POCD. Charlene created the ARPA committee to involve the community in the process of targeting the distribution of the \$1.2MM

grant to Chester to address the COVID impact on our community. These discussions will result in prioritized initiatives for EDC to assist.

## **6. Update on Existing EDC and Community initiatives / issues**

Norma Terris Theater- Charlene reached out to Goodspeed and hasn't heard back yet.

59 Winthrop Road (Skyview)- Phase I completed. Phase II test data not available yet. There might be brownfield grants to fund the cleanup.

Garbage ordinance / negotiations- the only issue is the Pataconk and Charlene is working with them to resolve the open issues.

Affordable housing update: Pat reported 1/24/22 second regional meeting. Regional solutions being discussed. 3/10/22 Chester workshop (7:00 during P&Z meeting). River COG is working on plans for 13 of 17 towns. Each town will have a plan. CT Law requires an affordable housing plan in place by 6/1/22.

RiverCOG update on Bike/Pedestrian infrastructure- Pat distributed the draft plan and powerpoint presentation in an email to EDC. Page 26 contains Chester's portion of the plan. Funding might be available (Connectivity grants, Steap grant, etc.). Discussion about transportation to and from the Chester marinas to Chester center.

Chester Community Partnership update: Kim reported Section 2 POCD Goal 3 relating to diversifying Chester's housing stock and to support households. Basic areas of affordability: Food, housing, utilities, transportation, mental health, health, technology, child care.

Childcare- Kim reported that there are no before or after school programs in Chester. The Y announced they will open registration for an after-school program at Chester Elementary. Requires 16 enrolled children to get started. Trustees at Deep River Congregational Church recently announced that the Church Street child care will close. It is the only program of its type serving Deep River.

Single point of contact for EDC, EDC email: [EDC@ChesterCT.ORG](mailto:EDC@ChesterCT.ORG)

Charlene will find out what it would cost to have an official EDC mail address rather than a gmail account. The concern is from an FOI and continuity perspective, EDC communications should be conducted within the ChesterCT.ORG domain.

## **7. Future follow-up summary**

## **8. Audience of Citizens –**

Michael Cressman reported the Committee is aware that the ARPA funds are subject to complex eligibility and reporting rules.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn and seconded by Pat and Susan, respectively.  
The meeting adjourned at 3:02PM

Respectively submitted,

Jon Joslow  
Chair, EDC