

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
March 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Wesa, M. Simmons, T. Hanson

GUESTS:

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A MOTION (Wesa, Simmons) to approve the minutes of February 16, 2023, as presented. ALL IN FAVOR. There was no March meeting, therefore, no minutes.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Available for Commissioners' perusal:

- a letter from Preservation Connecticut the membership dues were received.
- Complexities of American Cities invitation determined it wasn't appropriate for EDC.
- an invoice from The Last Green Valley for annual membership.
- an invitation to Last Green Valley annual meeting
- packet from Last Green Valley including map, booklet and letter with programs and services.
- March/April issue of Preservation Connecticut News.
- Planning and Zoning minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Farmers Market – Mr. Simmons is still working on musicians. Vendor applications are being received. Market Master has been attending state events. There will be no changes from last year.

EDC Website/Voluntown.Biz – Has been updated.

Business Development/P&Z – Mr. Simmons, Ms. Hanson and the town planner are meeting with Al Daigneault who wants to build a brewery. An additional property across the street has been purchased by Mr. Daigneault. There is a grant called Community Challenge to support economic development that can be applied for. The state is looking to maximize funding with community investment. Other town projects are being considered.

Mr. Wesa thought the town should not be involved with private development. Mr. Simmons said grants are for creating economic development. The state wants private business partnerships. If the town would install sidewalks, it might match a grant.

Mr. Wesa attended the Republican Town Committee meeting and suggested pushing our representatives to make a bill to increase Education Cost Sharing grant.

Eastern Connecticut Tourism – Ms. Hanson may be elected Chair. More events are happening this year.

Trails Map – Mr. Wesa spoke with James Dodd. \$1,000 gets 1250 maps. He gets the balance from 5,000, which are given to advertisers, and he keeps a small reserve for replenishment. A MOTION was made (Wesa, Hanson) to spend \$1,900 for 3000 trails maps that are larger (18 x 24"). ALL IN FAVOR.

Historical Update – Discussion on cost of an engineer for "punkin chunkin", liability issues and where it would be held as it was thought the town field wouldn't be large enough.

Budget – It was decided that the 2023-23 proposal will remain the same as the previous year.

The Farmers Market budget shows a slight increase to rent the storage trailer. The extra cost will be taken from sponsorship and vendor fees.

A MOTION was made (Wesa, Simmons) to submit the proposed budget to be the same as 2022-23 budget. ALL IN FAVOR.

Old Business – Mr. Wesa requested clarification for his business on the website .

New Business – None

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2023

--Paul Whitescarver, Executive Director of seCTer. Ms. Hanson will investigate.

A MOTION was made (Wesa, Simmons) to adjourn at 8:39, ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted, Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk

Approved for distribution

_____Date_____