



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes, Monday, February 27, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.
Shepardson Community Center, Room 7
(approved)

Present: Commissioner Jesse Langer
Chairman Terrence McAuliffe
Commissioner Frank Mirovsky
Commissioner Mark Petrucci

Also present ShawnaLee Waterbury-Kwashnak
Andrew Kwashnak

Excused Commissioner Nicole Griffin

Absent Commissioner David Cappelletti
Commissioner Armando Paolino

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McAuliffe called the meeting to order at about 6:35 pm with roll call and pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Frank Mirovsky MOTIONED to approve the January 23, 2023 and January 31, 2023 meeting minutes, SECOND by Jesse Langer and unanimously voted.

GUEST DISCUSSION

ShawnaLee Waterbury-Kwashnak, owner of Portraits by ShawnaLee, discussed her thoughts on improving the business climate and overall beauty of Middlebury. She said she and her husband moved to Middlebury in 2001 after living in Ridgefield. She said the current Middlebury need for beautification, especially in the area from Memorial Middle School up through the Four Corners area, reminded her of a successful effort in Ridgefield where the town, with a push from beautification proponents, installed beautiful lamps and lush flowers, a little bit at a time, resulting in a greatly improved business climate and skyrocketing values.

In discussion with commissioners, Ms. Waterbury-Kwashnak was told of a 2016 Request for Proposal by EDC for a "Streetscape Plan" and "Design Guidelines" for that area of town. Those efforts were estimated at about \$35K each and passed

to the Selectmens office for funding, but never approved. She was also told that several town agencies or commissions could get involved, such as Public Works, Beautification, Greenway Committee, Parks and Rec, and Selectmens office, but the crucial components would be leadership and funding.

She recommended EDC contact Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi to understand the costs and effort involved.

"I think Middlebury needs to dig its heels in, to protect the beauty of it, ... and keep it from being destroyed."

OLD BUSINESS

Government and Business Institute Reports

Frank Mirovsky distributed copies of "Charter for Change", a 20-page publication from the Yankee Institute recommending changes that could greatly improve Connecticut's business climate. Among the recommendations is Making Connecticut Less Taxing, Make Better Budget Choices, Make State Operations More Efficient, Improve the Business Climate, Institute Structural Reforms, and Rebalance Relationship with State Unions.

EDC Budget

Chairman McAuliffe said that the \$2,000 request for typical EDC expenses would be approved in the 2023-2024 town budget, but \$5,000 for a proposed promotional video was not planned to be approved. He said there was a possibility the video might be financed through another source of town funds, unknown at present.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

DISCUSSION

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Frank Mirovsky MOTIONED to adjourn, SECOND by Mark Petrucci and unanimously voted at about 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence McAuliffe
Chairman—Economic Development Commission
cc. Town Clerk, Commission Members