

TOWN OF SALEM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1

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2024 MAR 28 A 10:53

PRESENT

Michael Smith, Acting Chairperson
Amanda Lawrence
Tim Whitehouse

ABSENT

Melissa Beers, Chairperson
John Houchin, Vice Chairperson
Kristen Pugatch
Kathleen Roderick, Alt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Beers called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

a. Tuesday, February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Whitehouse/Lawrence, to approve the February 20, 2024 Economic Development Commission Special Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Update from Senator Martha Marx – *no update*
- b. Update from State Representatives Holly Cheeseman and Irene Haines – *no update*
- c. Update from Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski – *no update*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *none*

6. SALEM BUSINESS

The Commission recently hosted the March Small Business Breakfast Gathering for neighboring community businesses. Approximately 20 businesses participated in the event to discuss marketing ideas. The networking event was held in collaboration with *Your Business Solution*, who expressed their openness to work with and assist the Commission. Commissioner Whitehouse proposed combining the networking events with (one of) the Roundtable meetings. The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of introducing an objective or theme to the Roundtable meetings to attract more businesses..

One new business in town includes *Vantage Point Training Center*.

6. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

a. In-Person Outreach – *no update*

b. Welcome Packet

Commissioner Whitehouse reported that he reviewed the webpage draft of the page and noted that there are links that are not active.

7. BUDGET UPDATE – no discussion

8. NEW BUSINESS

Salem Business Recognition Program

The Commissioners discussed the recognition of select local businesses within a chosen criteria every quarter. The program will be named *Salem EDC Exceptional Business Recognition Program* and a plaque will be handed to the recipients. The criteria and businesses for the first and second quarters were discussed.

The Commission agreed to revisit the recognition of one of the quarterly recipients for an Annual Award in the future.

The item will be placed on all future agendas.

M/S/C: Smith/Whitehouse, to establish the following criteria for the 2024 Salem EDC Exceptional Business Recognition: a Woman-owned Business (first quarter) and Instruction & Longevity (second quarter) and to nominate and recognize *Wicked Southern Coffee* for the first quarter and *Cornerstone Karate* for the second quarter. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

M/S/C: Smith/Lawrence, to allocate an amount not to exceed \$45.00 for each 2024 Salem EDC Exceptional Business Recognition plaque. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

The presentation of the plaque will be discussed and determined at a future meeting.

9. CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The Commissioners discussed possible date(s), including a rain date, and hours for the event.

M/S/C: Smith/Whitehouse, to set the date of Saturday, July 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the Christmas in July event. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

10. OLD BUSINESS – none

11. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Lawrence/Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem