

**TOWN OF SALEM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019 – 8:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

Edward Chmielewski, Jr., Chairman
Terri Salas (*via speakerphone*)
Joshua Rehrig (*via speakerphone*)

ABSENT

Paul Robillard

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA – *none*

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. A copy of the resignation letter from Commissioner Ronald LaBonte.
Commissioner LaBonte's resignation was accepted with regrets; he was thanked for his service on the Commission.

**4. EDC BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY 2019/2020 PUBLICATION
FEEDBACK**

The Commissioners are continuing to meet with the local business and are receiving outstanding reviews on the Business and Services Directory, from which the businesses are continuing to receive referrals on a weekly basis.

5. SALEM VISITORS GUIDE PUBLICATION FEEDBACK

The Guide is in the process of being distributed to local businesses and Chairman Chmielewski was happy to report that the supply at Town Hall was recently in need of being replenished.

6. SENIOR FRIENDLY / AGE RESTRICTED HOUSING DISCUSSION

Chairman Chmielewski reported that he spoke with a builder who is interested in constructing an age-restricted housing development in Salem. As the President of the Salem Seniors, the subject has been discussed at their meetings and many are interested in taking advantage of such housing. First Selectman Kevin Lyden, who was unable to attend this evening's meeting, thanked the Commission for all of their support and hard work in this respect.

7. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

Chairman Chmielewski reported that the local businesses have expressed their appreciation of the proactive approach the Town has taken to look out for their best interests and provide support in an effort to ensure that their businesses thrive. Commissioner Salas felt, and Commissioner Rehrig agreed, that their personal interactions and connections with the local businesses and keeping their lines of communication open has been a very positive experience. Chairman Chmielewski commended the team.

8. RECAP OF APPLEFEST EDC DISPLAY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Chairman Chmielewski stated that First Selectman Lyden commended the EDC on their display at the recent AppleFest event. Chairman Chmielewski personally commended Commissioner Salas for taking the initiative to create and set up the display showcasing the EDC's efforts and highlighting the Town's local businesses and setting it up. He also thanked Commissioner Rehrig for his help at the event. Commissioner Salas was very happy with the display and suggested they consider acquiring an easel or stand to better present their displays in the future as well as a banner, with a catchy tagline, to show their presence. Chairman Chmielewski agreed and encouraged the Commissioners to think about a catchy tagline to include on the banner. The possibility of holding a contest or involving the school was also suggested.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and Approve 2020 Meeting Dates

M/S/C: Salas/Rehrig, to approve the Economic Development Meeting Dates for 2020 as follows: January 21, February 18, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21, and January 18. All meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, with the exception of January and February, which will be held on the fourth Monday of the month due to Martin Luther King and Presidents Day holidays.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

b. Review and Approval of the October 21 Regular Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Salas/Rehrig, to approve the Economic Development Regular Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2019, with the following amendment:

PRESENT: ~~Terry~~ Terri Salas

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Additional Restrooms at Salem Four Corners: Commissioner Rehrig reported that he was asked by several of the business owners located at Salem Four Corners (1 New London Road) regarding the possibility of adding additional bathrooms to the property. Chairman Chmielewski stated that, due to the wetlands located in the area, there are septic limitations; the issue is outside the purview of the Commission and may be discussed with the relative agency(ies).

Annual Tree Lighting Event: Chairman Chmielewski introduced the possibility of involving the Commission at the upcoming Annual Tree Lighting event, which will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. The event will also celebrate the closing of the Town's Bicentennial year. The Recreation Commission has discussed the possibility of hosting a lighted tractor parade as part of this year's event. The Commission agreed to review the event and investigate the possibility of being involved in the event next year.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Review and Update of the Salem Business Database – *not discussed*

11. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Salas/Rehrig, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Discussion: Chairman Chmielewski thanked the Commissioners for their time, energy, and efforts. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem