

**TOWN OF SALEM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 – 8:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

Edward Chmielewski, Jr., Chairman
Paul Robillard
Terri Salas

ABSENT

Joshua Rehrig

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m.

Commissioner Rehrig, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflicting engagement, sent his regrets.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA – none

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Chairman Chmielewski received correspondence from State Representative Holly Cheeseman, who is interested in attending the Commission's next regular meeting to discuss the State's Small Business Advisory Committee, some ideas she has regarding generating and supporting local businesses, and related pending legislation.
- b. Chairman Chmielewski was informed by First Selectman Kevin Lyden that the old *Salem Feed & Grain*, located on Norwich Road, was recently sold; Chairman Chmielewski plans to conduct a meet and greet with the new owners in the near future. The First Selectman also expressed his appreciation to the Commission for all of their hard work, efforts, and accomplishments during the past year.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: NOVEMBER 18, 2019 REGULAR MEETING
M/S/C: Robillard/Salas, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.**

5. EDC BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY 2019/2020 PUBLICATION FEEDBACK

The Commissioners are continuing to receive positive feedback as businesses continue to receive referrals from the Directory and residents discover local businesses that they were not previously aware of. The Commission agreed to begin working on the listings for a 2021/22 Directory in the Fall.

6. SALEM VISITORS GUIDE PUBLICATION FEEDBACK

The Commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of publishing the Guide in FY2021/22.

7. SENIOR FRIENDLY / AGE RESTRICTED HOUSING DISCUSSION

Chairman Chmielewski reported that he is aware of at least one developer who is interested in constructing an age-restricted housing development in Salem. A location for the development has not yet been determined. The seniors continue to be interested in such housing.

8. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of creating a Welcome Packet, which would include a Welcome Letter, Directory, Pamphlet, Visitors Guide, a brochure that includes a listing of all of the town departments, an EDC Informational Sheet that includes the members' contact information, and a form that could be completed and referred to the EDC, who could meet with and help guide new businesses. A similar Packet for new residents was also proposed, but it was felt that it may not be under the guise of the Commission, itself. As such, they discussed the possibility of partnering with another Commission to create a Welcome Packet for new residents in the future.

Commissioner Robillard also noted other changes in the town, including *Getty Granite*, which was sold last year, and the *Maple Shade General Store*, which opened last year.

9. RECAP OF APPLEFEST EDC DISPLAY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Chairman Chmielewski stated that the static display created by Commissioner Salas for the AppleFest event was positively received by the public. As such, the Commission discussed the possibility of creating a similar display for the Memorial Day Parade and Event and reaching out to the local businesses to see if they are interested in having their business highlighted on the display. The Memorial Day Parade and AppleFest event will be placed as items for discussion on future agendas.

10. NEW BUSINESS

The possibility of creating a card that could be included in the annual tax bill to the residents will be investigated.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review and Update of the Salem Business Database

Commissioner Robillard will be downloading and printing the most current version of the database for the Commissioners for review.

12. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Salas/Robillard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 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