

**TOWN OF SALEM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021 – 8:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

PRESENT

Edward Chmielewski, Jr., Chairman
Carl Fontneau
Steven Shelley

ABSENT

none

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA – *none*

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

M/S/C: Fontneau/Shelley, to approve the June 1, 2021 Economic Development Commission Special Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

4. CORRESPONDENCE – *none*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *none*

6. SALEM BUSINESS AND COVID 19 IMPACT

a. Update from Senator Paul Formica – *no update*

b. Update from State Representative Holly Cheeseman – *no update*

c. Update from Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden

Chairman Chmielewski reported that the First Selectman provided a brief report during the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting regarding the receipt of approximately \$600,000.00 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds. The town is slated to receive an additional \$600,000.00 next year. The funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024. Per the Town Charter, amounts over 2/10ths of 1% of the Town Budget must be voted upon by the Boards of Finance and Selectmen and amounts exceeding 1% of the Town Budget must be voted upon by the residents via a Town Meeting. He expressed his appreciation to First Selectman Lyden for his cautious approach as he ensures that the validity of the allocation of funds.

7. CT OFFICE OF TOURISM

- a. Eastern Region Tourism District Update – *no update*

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Fontneau, to recommend the appointment of Commissioner Steven Shelley to the Eastern Region Tourism District as a representative of the Town of Salem. Discussion: Chairman Chmielewski felt that, based on his background and skillset, Commissioner Shelley would be a great asset to the team and represent the town well. Commissioner Shelley stated his appreciation to Chairman Chmielewski for his vote of confidence and expressed his willingness to serve on the Board. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

8. EDC BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY 2021

Commissioner Shelley reported that the First Selectman has signed the outreach letter informing the local businesses that *The Chronicle* would be reaching out to them regarding the Directory. In addition, the alphabetical roster, organized by both category and name, has been provided to *The Chronicle*. Eight pages in the Directory have been set aside for the EDC's introductory letter and town services. The deadline for the introductory and town services pages is July 21 and the Directory is slated for distribution on September 1. The Commissioners agreed to include and recognize former Commissioners Paul Robillard, Joshua Rehrig, and Terri Salas on the credits page. Following a brief discussion regarding the cover, the Commissioners agreed to maintain the original cover, changing its respective dates. Chairman Chmielewski thanked Commissioner Shelley for his hard work and efforts.

9. SENIOR FRIENDLY / AGE RESTRICTED HOUSING DISCUSSION

Chairman Chmielewski reported that construction of the age-restricted housing development continues to progress. It was reported that the waiting list includes the names of 30 individuals.

10. PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD)

A brief discussion was held regarding the formatting of the proposed goals, their prioritization, and accompanying action steps. Commissioner Fontneau stated that the preliminary survey results were distributed and the goals and related action steps may change, accordingly. Chairman Chmielewski thanked Commissioner Fontneau for his hard work and acting as the bridge between the EDC and Planning & Zoning Commission.

11. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

- a. Electronic Survey (Commissioner Shelley) – *no update*

- b. In-Person Outreach (Commissioner Shelley)

Chairman Chmielewski reported that the *Dollar General* continues to hire local residents with 80% of the staff being made up of Salem residents. Some sense of

normalcy is evident at such businesses as the *Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream* and other local businesses. He thanked the Commissioners for all of their work as the ambassadors of the town to its local businesses.

- c. Welcome Packet (Commissioner Fontneau) – *no update*

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Amended Schedule of 2021 Meeting Dates:
August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7

M/S/C: Shelley/Fontneau, to approve the Amended 2021 Meeting Dates as follows: August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7. The meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, Conference Room 1. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

Commissioner Fontneau reported on a recent Senate Bill that was passed by the legislators that will significantly affect the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Bill includes amendments to the accessory apartments, which do not count towards the town's affordable housing.

The EDC is welcome to host a table or have brochures available for distribution at the Recreation Commission's Summer Concert which will be held on Wednesday, August 25, 6:00 p.m., at Salem Community Park Pavilion.

13. OLD BUSINESS

14. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Fontneau/Shelley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 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