

**TOWN OF SALEM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

The minutes submitted below have been filed in accordance with Section 1-225 of the CT General Statutes. They are subject to final approval with or without amendments by a vote of the Economic Development Commission. Approval and any such amendments will be detailed in subsequent minutes.

Due to the lack of a quorum, an informal informational meeting was held.

PRESENT

Steven Shelley, Chairman
John Houchin

ABSENT

Melissa Beers
Carl Fontneau
Victoria Knopf
John Gilbert, Alternate
Alexandra Marsh, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shelley called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – *none*

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

- a. Tuesday, January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting

4. CORRESPONDENCE – *none*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A Salem business owner, who attended a past meeting, expressed his interest in serving on the Commission.

6. SALEM BUSINESS – *no updates*

- a. Update from Senator Paul Formica and Martha Marx
- b. Update from State Representatives Holly Cheeseman and Irene Haynes
- c. Update from Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski

7. ZONING MAP MODIFICATIONS – *no discussion*

8. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT – *no discussion*

- a. In-Person Outreach
- b. Welcome Packet

9. NEW BUSINESS – *none*

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding / Salem Small Business Assistance

- 1) Celebrate Salem! July event with Recreation Commission

Discussion ensued regarding the Celebrate Salem! event with Recreation Commission Chairperson Mary Durkee. The purpose of the event is to host a community event that includes town organizations, bands, and businesses. The Commission's goal is to solicit and promote the little-known home occupation businesses. To date, the Commission has been able to reach out to approximately 40% of the 168 known businesses in the town. Due to the nature of some of the businesses, they have been met with some hesitation. Chairman Shelley reported that his goal is to feature approximately 20 to 25 vendors at the event; to date, he has received a commitment from approximately five (5) vendors. He also volunteered to speak with the Music Bureau to seek possible local bands and/or DJs. Commissioner Houchin stated the importance of communicating with and promoting businesses other than those located at the roundabout. Chairperson Durkee stated her plans to speak with the Salem School music/band teacher(s) for additional entertainment. She also raised the possibility of including various activities to draw in the public including an activity involving dogs, disc golf practice baskets, and the like. Promotional material soliciting the event for possible vendors may be posted at *Two Brothers Bar and Restaurant*, *Salem Health Mart*, and the *Red House Cultural Center*. The event will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Salem Community Park Pavilion. Chairman Shelley will plan to attend the Recreation Commission's February Regular Meeting to discuss the event and answer any questions.

- b. Election of Officers – *no discussion*

11. ADJOURNMENT

The informational meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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