

TOWN OF SALEM
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Salem Town Hall, Conference Room 1

PRESENT

Steven Shelley, Chairman
Melissa Beers
John Houchin

ABSENT

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shelley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – *none*

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting
M/S/C: Beers/Houchin, to approve the February 21, 2023 Economic Development Commission Regular 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 Martha Marx
- b. Update from State Representative Holly Cheeseman /
- c. Update from Salem First Selectman Ed Chmielewski

Chairman Shelley reported that Senator Formica, Representative Marx, Representative Cheeseman, and First Selectman Ed Chmielewski expressed their appreciation to the Commission for their volunteerism and continued interest in the community.

The First Selectman discussed the continued improvement to Salem Town Center (1 New London Road) and the active involvement of the new owners to improve and revitalize the property, and further expressed his belief that this involvement will be beneficial to the town.

Senator Marx expressed her excitement and hopefulness of approval of pending legislation which would provide funding to the Town of Salem for its open spaces.

7. ZONING MAP MODIFICATIONS

Chairman Shelley informed the Board and discussed the current status of zoning and Salem's open spaces. A brief discussion ensued regarding the pending legislation as mentioned by Representative Marx, and Chairman Shelley stated he would provide further detail as soon as feasible.

8. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT

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

Chairman Shelley discussed briefly the package work conducted by Commissioner Fontneau and briefly discussed Commissioner Fontneau absence from meetings and asked the Board to remain hopeful and keep Commissioner Fontneau in their thoughts.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding / Salem Small Business Assistance
Chairman Shelley reported to the Board that the Recreation Committee would not be participating in the "Celebrate Salem" event in July. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this event, with Commissioner Beers volunteering to lead the event. Chairman Shelley shared with the Board his proposal for the flyer being submitted to the spring issue of "Our Town Salem", with further discussion of event specifics and businesses who would be invited to participate.

ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C: Beers/Houchin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Steven M. Shelley, Chairman Economic Development Commission for the Town of Salem