

**TOWN OF SALEM  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019 – 8:00 P.M.  
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 2**

**PRESENT**

Edward Chmielewski, Jr., Chairman  
Ronald LaBonte  
Paul Robillard  
Terry Salas  
Joshua Rehrig, Alternate (8:24 p.m.)

**ABSENT**

Ed Natoli  
Ron Przech, Alternate

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *led by Commissioner LaBonte*

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Robillard, to seat Alternate Commissioner Rehrig for Full Member  
Commissioner Natoli. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

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

**3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *none*

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

Chairman Chmielewski reported that several positive comments have been received regarding the Directory from residents and business owners, alike, and many small business owners reported that they have received business from their Directory listing. Commissioner Salas suggested the possibility of compiling the comments and including them in their Applefest display. Commissioner Robillard agreed and also suggested publishing those comments in the next issue of *Our Town Salem*. Commissioner Salas added that they should also include a blurb on how the EDC could help them. Chairman Chmielewski requested the Commissioners send him their thoughts and he will create a draft for review for the next issue of *Our Town Salem*.

*Commissioner Rehrig entered the meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

Chairman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Robillard and his wife for all of their hard work on the Directory. Commissioner Robillard commended the printer, Mike Johnson of Maple Print Services, for all of his hard work on the Directory and the Salem Visitors Guide.

**5. SALEM VISITORS GUIDE PUBLICATION FEEDBACK**

The Visitors Guide will continue to be distributed to the local businesses.

**6. SENIOR FRIENDLY/AGE-RESTRICTED HOUSING DISCUSSION**

The possibility of a Senior Friendly/Age-Restricted Housing Development appears to be on hold for the time being. Developers are reviewing available (private) properties as possible locations for a development. The majority of townspeople agree that the town is in need of age-restricted housing and the Commissioners agreed to support the construction of a Senior Friendly/Age-Restricted Housing Development(s) in town.

**7. SALEM BUSINESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT**

Commissioner Robillard stated the importance of reviewing and updating the database of businesses they compiled on a regular basis. He suggested they review the list between December and March/April and coincide the updates with their business outreach and support efforts, including visiting the Town's new businesses with an introductory packet.

Commissioner LaBonte reported that Subway, Salem Four Corners Package Store, and Dunkin' Donuts had complained about a backed up septic system and their disappointment with the lack of support from the owner(s) of the building. Dunkin' Donuts is losing significant business and Subway is contemplating permanently closing their doors. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of inviting the business owners to one of their meetings to discuss possible ways in which they might be able to help resolve some or all of their issues. Commissioner LaBonte will speak with the First Selectman.

**8. APPLEFEST EDC DISPLAY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH INITIATIVE**

Commissioner LaBonte will provide a collapsible tent, table, and chairs for the AppleFest event and Commissioner Salas will create presentation boards for an (unmanned) static display that will include the Commission's promotional materials. The Commissioners will meet after the breakfast (approximately 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.) to set up.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission's November meeting will be held on Monday, November 18 at 8:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1.

**10. OLD BUSINESS – none**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Robillard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

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