

Chaplin Community and Economic Development Commission
October 11, 2017
Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Irene Schein at 6:40 PM
 2. Present: I. Schein, V. and P. Siege, L. Ricklin, P. McKleroy, Alt (arrived 6:43), D. Richard (arrived 7:00), A. Chuk (arrived 7:46), M. Madgs, Alt (arrived 6:47)
Guest: C. McKleroy
 3. L. Ricklin recording secretary
 4. L. Ricklin moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 13, seconded by V. Siege.
Approved.
 5. No additions to the agenda, however, members agreed to move item 9 Senior Housing for item 6 Spring Festival
 9. Senior Housing: P. Siege reported findings frthree neighboring towns (Mansfield, Lebanon, Coventry) about what they are building and planning for senior housing. Discussion followed regarding how the Commission can adapt ideas to Chaplin. The Chair suggested that the Pine Acres property on RT 6 is a possible site and is for sale. She and Ann Chuk will visit the property. P. McKleroy presented on a facility in Hebron. She is also meeting with the northeastern ambassador from the State Economic Development Commission. The Chair wishes to focus on a piece of property first before continuing the planning process.
 6. Chair reviewed where we are planning the spring festival: May 19 from 11-3. From 11-1 there will be children's music, adult music from 1-3. Recreation Commission will have activities for children. Vendors still have to be identified.
The members agreed to edit the festival title to "Chaplin Maypole Festival" (removing the word "Spring").
D. Richard reported that she'd talked with the chorus teacher at PHHS who is enthusiastic to participate.
L. Ricklin reported on a meeting with Donna Dufresne and Linda Caron at CES who are enthusiastic to participate. Linda has a portable Maypole and is eager to have students involved. There is a potential problem about when CES/PTO has its Plant Sale.
The Chair reported that the Town may be able to provide us with some money.
- Publicity: V. Siege said that the Commission must start planning its publicity campaign for the Festival. P. Siege took a group photo to be used in a variety of media. She asked about signage and where to place them as we get closer to the event. Members agreed that we need a "Sign Master" to organize placement of signs. D. Richards volunteered to be on Publicity Sub-committee: to find sponsors to help pay for T-shirts, build a Festival Website, which will have applications for vendors, musicians.
- Music: A. Chuk, A. Madgs, and C. McKleroy are a sub-committee looking into this. Ann will call a meeting to identify some good groups.- 7. Outreach to businesses: A. Chuk visited the newly opened restaurant Little

Niko's and told the owners about our Commission. The Chair also will visit Pine Acres re: senior housing possibilities.

8. Hop Growing: C. McKleroy reported on a conversation he had with Alex DiFrancesco who is head of the hop growers' organization. The members agree that a seminar, "Hop 101" should be offered to local landowners as well as others in the area who might want to start growing hops. Publicity would be important for this event. M. Madgs reported on a meeting he had with the owner of the Willimantic Brewing Co. who offered great insight about setting up a brewery with retail possibilities.
The next step would be to start publicity for both the seminar and the festival.
10. Chair read her article re: the mission and activities of the Commission which will be used in publications. Members approved the content and offered some editing points. P. McKleroy reported on attending a talk by Sustainable CT at Eastern CT ST University, which promotes ways to plan for sustainability of the environment.
11. Next meeting will be held on Nov. 8, 2017 at 6:30 PM
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ricklin