

Chaplin Community and Economic Dev Commission MINUTES 4.10.19

Call to order at 6:30 p/m/

Members present: Irene Shein., Leslie Ricklin, Virginia Siegel, Ann Chuk, Ann Lewis,  
Arrived at 6:45, Josh Walmsley

Minutes taken by Chuk

**Approval of Minutes:** Leslie R moved to approve minutes of 1/9/19 and 3/13/19.  
Seconded by V.S and others

**Changes to agenda:** added discussion of workshop presented by SERC ( NAME IF WORKSHOP HERE) which was attended by R Shein, and webinar of the meeting was watched by A. Chuk.

Discussed Business retention, expansion and recruitment. Talked about looking at town and knowing what would work in town. Discussion of using spaces in new and different ways. ie.. using a restaurant to have group work space by providing WIFI in an extra room, etc..

(From AC notes.. not discussed at meeting *What if we used your space for entrepreneurial activities?*

*gives opportunity to market their space for them...*

*Where are your physical spaces in your community?*

*Can have workshops for business people re:*

- 1. Accounting*
- 2. law*
- 3. Internet security*
- 4. Marketing*

*Resources are out there for small businesses.*

*CERC, SBA, AMERICAS SBDC, CT still revolutionary*

*CT innovations, SCORE, WBCD, Community Investment Corp.*

*Best way to communicate what is offered to entrepreneurs in town?*

*what are up and coming businesses that we will be seeing? what are our zoning regs to start one?)*

### **Discussion of Hemp Farming and other non traditional crops in CT.**

Rene and Josh reported on this workshop. At this time, Hemp farming is pretty complicated and maybe different in a year due to changes in CT laws. Talked about mushroom, barley and malt farming. Josh stated that he is now growing mushrooms on his farm!

**Senior Housing update and transportaion news:** Review of both survey monkey results and paper results indicate many people who responded to survey feel there is a need for this type of housing in town. Many comments like : Would love to see that, It would be great for Chaplin to have this, good idea, were just some of the comments. About 90+% of people responding stated that they would be interested in Senior housing.

Rene reported on the wait lists in other towns for senior/assisted living/ housing. Seems that all places have waiting lists at the present time.

Reported on one person recently who have lived in town for over 50 years, volunteered at the senior center, went to the local church, who have had to leave the town and is very unhappy about that. She is not far, in Brooklyn, CT but cannot get here due to lack of transportation.

Rene reported that Bill Rose is working on Transportation issues.. trying to connect the services that Brooklyn/Killingly have with the services that Willimantic/Columbia have.. which do not connect so people cannot get from Columbia to Brooklyn unless there is a better system of transportation for the elderly.

### **Business outreach:**

Continued discussion about outreach. Talked about inviting businesses for coffee to network, and see how our commission may be able to help the businesses in town, including cottage industries, automotive places, farming co, resturants, contractors, etc. Ann/ Virginia/Leslie will take names of businesses provided by Rene and send invitations to these businesses to join us at a later meeting, perhaps in JUNE or JULY for a coffee and networking and getting to know you. Invitation will be made, envelopes gotten and addressed. Rene will send copy of the letter that she and Leslie had written earlier to Ann C in an email or drop off. (A date will be decided upon at next meeting?)

Also talked about developing a Chaplin Business assoc.. where businesses could join, and meet on a monthly basis for networking or workshops..Josh stated that he was interested in that with his business, and would want to make sure that the businesses were registered with the state if we did have an association.

Josh has not yet talked with clean up day people to see if we can have some recycling activities going on at FHouse on same day. Not sure if this is too late to happen, or whether this is still being considered??

**FB:** see if we can add Ann Lewis to admin so that she can post some things on there about composting once a week/month etc.

### **Sustainable CT website .**

Discussed being together at next meeting to manipulate and explore the website. WE can either bring laptops to the meeting or set up a projector and screen to watch on bigger screen., It may be better to all be using our own computers so we are actually manipulating the website ourselves so that we can see how to use it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

Respectfully submitted, Ann Chuk