

DRAFT MINUTES :CHAPLIN ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 12, 2022 6:30 pm REMOTE PLATFORM

Meeting called to order by Chair Schein at 6:36 pm

Members present..Schein, Ricklin, Kalisher, Bill Rose, no others present

Schein will be recording secretary for this meeting.

Minutes of August 11, 2021 approved, Ricklin moved, Kalisher second, all in favor.

Membership discussed. Ricklin and Kalisher may not stay on beyond their present term.

First Selectmen Roman contacted Schein prior to this meeting saying he could not attend this meeting but would like to in the future and also shared contact information for a citizen interested being on the Commission, Carl Hyburg.

Schein and Rose would be only active members. Rose taking on a more active role and made several suggestions of how to proceed. He will contact new owner of former Ives property next to Blondies, as well as look into using the old Post Office as a residential use for affordable senior housing.

Ricklin and Schein will work on a letter to send out to the public with information about the work of our Commission and invite interested citizens to contact us about membership.

This letter will be approved by Commission before publication.

Schein attended meetings she was notified of relating to economic development and senior/affordable housing and reported briefly about these NECCOG initiated meetings. It seems NECCOG is reaching out beyond the First Selectmen to other Town Officials, especially Economic Commission members, to be involved in various activities.

Schein attended the initial virtual meeting on September 16, 2021, conducted by John Filchak, to begin a one to two year process to update the Regional Economic Development Strategy document, which happens every five years. This is considered a blueprint for the economic future and funding for the region. Their focus is on action strategies to promote equity in economic, social and racial opportunities. Social services in the areas of housing, food and health care to be promoted.

On September 30, 2021 Schein attended a kick off meeting of the Affordable Housing Steering Committee, for the purpose of creating a Chaplin Affordable housing plan, mandated by the State for each Town. The meeting was conducted in person by Jim Larkin at the Town Hall with several Town officials present. NECCOG was hired by the Town to help with this document. The role of the steering committee is to determine the best strategy and process for Chaplin to

reach the goal of increased affordable housing, while staying within the statutory requirements. This plan requires public input and approval and must be maintained and revised as needed.

On November 18, 2021, Schein attended a virtual meeting of the Human Services Coordinating Council, moderated by Hoween Flexer, Senior Director of Regional Services at NECCOG.

Discussion ensued regarding this group's focus for items to be included in Regional Economic Strategy plan and reach out and network with as many stakeholders as possible. Presently working on COVID related challenges assistance and recovery. Future focus on equitable employment opportunities where education, training and retraining avenues are utilized as well as Job Fairs, business assistance, and confronting barriers to employment like transportation, child care and affordable housing.

Next this Commission discussed ways we could be more aware of business activity, especially in the business district. More individual contact seems most suited for our limited number of locations.

Chair Schein was re-elected, Rose moved with Ricklin second. All in favor. Schein abstained.

Meeting dates , times and location set for 2022.

Jan 12, Feb 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14.all at 6:30 PM at the Town hall or remote if health and safety requires such.

Kalisher moved, Ricklin second and all approved meeting dates and times and location.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38PM.

Schein, Temporary recording secretary