

TOWN OF BOLTON
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Commission members in attendance were Bill Anderson, Milton Hathaway and Cathy Teller.

1. **Call to Order:** Acting Chairman Milton Hathaway called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Town Administrator Joshua Kelly indicated that this was the first EDC meeting that he was able to attend. He is in support of the EDC and he thanked the members for all of their efforts in the past. He is willing to support the Commission in whatever way he can.

Andrew Ladyga of Lyndale Farms indicated that he wants to be a help to the Bolton EDC. He feels that Bolton may be able to partner with Coventry on development efforts especially along Route 44.

M. Hathaway responded that he has attended the Coventry meetings in the past and he agrees with partnering with neighboring towns. He suggested that Bolton EDC members attend the meetings in Coventry. He feels that the lack having a dedicated Town employee working on economic development is a detriment.

3. **Discussion of the regional economic vitality plan for the Towns of Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland**

C. Teller stated that the time period for input is closed. She feels that the plan has an expectation that each town will commit staff and resources to accomplish the tasks noted. Neither the Town of Bolton nor the EDC have the resources for this.

B. Anderson noted that Wednesday September 16, 2020, was the public Zoom presentation of the plan. None of the EDC members were able to attend the Zoom meeting. He asked if the plan was all or nothing i.e. do all towns have to participate? There was uncertainty of how the plan would be managed going forward.

M. Hathaway noted that there are a lot of ideas in the plan. Perhaps a few ideas could be focused on for implementation.

C. Teller asked if they should reach out to Joshua Kelly or the BOS to be kept in the loop for plan implementation. There were no volunteers from the EDC to participate.
4. **Upcoming vacancies**

Further advertising is needed to attract members for the Commission. M. Hathaway brought up the idea of hiring a paid consultant as an employee for the economic development process. He will draft a formal request to be reviewed by the EDC

members before presentation to the BOS. The commission members feel that the current volunteer-only effort is not working.

B. Anderson feels that the lack of economic development is due to zoning constraints and lack of public services. He feels that contractors should have been contacted to find out why they were not interested in development in Bolton. C. Teller responded that this question has been posed in the past and she doesn't feel that it is necessary to pose it again before formally asking the BOS for assistance.

M. Hathaway felt that the EDC should be contacted by the Town when businesses are interested in development in Bolton.

M. Hathaway's term expires on July 1, 2023. B. Anderson, A. Ansaldi and C. Teller have terms that expire on July 1, 2021.

C. Teller will contact Joshua Miller to inform him of the upcoming vacancies and she will ask for his assistance in recruiting new members. All members were in agreement with this approach.

5. Other

M. Hathaway received a \$350.00 invoice from the TCCC for Bolton's membership. All members felt that the membership should be continued. M. Hathaway will ask A. Ansaldi if he would like to attend future TCCC meetings

B. Anderson made a motion to expend \$350.00 for yearly TCCC dues. C. Teller seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

6. Adjournment

C. Teller made a motion to adjourn the virtual meeting at 8:10 p.m. B. Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Brand

Leslie Brand, Board Clerk

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.