



Economic Development Commission

Town of Lebanon

579 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut 06249

(860) 642-2006

MEETING MINUTES of October 3, 2023

Present: Jim Russo (Chair), Julie Chalifoux, Lori Jahoda, Charlotte Ross
Absent: Marc Cohen, Pat McCarthy, Jim Smith, Christine Warner
Also Present: Philip Chester (Town Planner), Bruce Goldstein (Paradise Agency), Keeley Santa Lucia (Farmers Market Vendor), Dan Moore (Farmers Market Vendor)

I. The Chair called the Special Meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 5:00 p.m. and appointed Lori Jahoda and Charlotte Ross voting members.

II. Public Comments.

- a. Bruce Goldstein from Paradise Agency noted that the tax abatement granted by the town for eight (8) senior apartments on Doctor Manning Drive originated with the Economic Development Commission. Because of COVID and increased material costs, Paradise Agency is asking for the Commission's support to extend the timeline of enacting the tax abatement for one year or until February 2025. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Lori Jahoda, seconded by Julie Chalifoux, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen an extension of the tax abatement for one (1) year or until February 2025. Motion unanimously approved.

III. Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Charolotte Ross, seconded by Jim Russo, to approve the July 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

IV. New Business

- a. The Commission and vendors took part in a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) exercise to identify possible ways to improve the farmers market experience. Items identified included, but were not limited to:
- Maintain current day and time of market and agricultural market focus.
 - Add SNAP (food stamps) acceptance to market.
 - Provide product gaps, i.e., milk, cheese, seafood, etc.
 - Evaluate advertisement opportunities.
 - Encourage new and repeat customers.
 - Add a market committee to discuss market focus and possible reorganization.
 - Consider market relocation.

It was agreed that this item would be continued at the November meeting.

VI. The Commission adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philip S. Chester, AICP
October 3, 2023