

Town of Lebanon, Connecticut
Economic Development Commission
7:00pm June 22, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes
Lebanon Town Hall

1.0 The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Ellen Macauley, Chairperson.

Present were Ellen Macauley, Kirsten Westbrook, John Kolar and Chris Warner.

2.0 May Minutes

The May meeting minutes were reviewed and John made a motion to accept them as written. Kirsten seconded the motion and it passed with three yes votes and one abstention.

3.0 Business of the Month

Chris gave a report on how the town of Portland runs their business of the month program. Any business in the town of Lebanon that is current on its tax obligations and in good standing would be eligible. Residents would nominate a business to the EDC and the members would vote each month on the winner. There would be a press release sent out each month noting who the business of the month was and a business wouldn't be eligible to win again for one year. Chris will create an outline of the program along with a sample press release. Ellen made a motion to pursue the business of the month program for the town of Lebanon and to go to the Board of Selectman for input and approval to put the press release on the town website. Chris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4.0 LCBA

The LCBA picnic is on July 30th and the business expo is coming up on October 15th.

5.0 Other/Misc.

Ellen met along with Lebanon Town Planner Phil Chester and US Department of Commerce Director Anne Evans to discuss the exporting of products made in Lebanon. There is a program being developed called Connecticut Harvest Market. It will create a co-op of small farms and brand them under the Connecticut Harvest Market and help them export their products to other states and countries. Ellen will provide updates as the program development progresses.

The Windham Region Chamber of Commerce is hosting an event on June 29th at the Nathan Hale Inn in Storrs, CT at 9am on state tourism. Ellen notified the Historical Society of the event and EDC members are encouraged to attend. There will be a brochures swap as part of the event to allow cross exposure of tourism in the state.

The EDC's proposed small business grant program was not approved by the Board of Selectman. Ellen went to town finance director Barbara Richardson-Crouch to inquire about any business tax incentives or tax abatements that local business may be eligible for. The EDC members will research similar programs in other towns and use that information to come up with a proposal in the fall that may be used to help stimulate business growth in Lebanon.

John Kolar left the meeting at 7:40pm

The LCBA hosted an event with the CT Works program on June 21st. The CT Works program may look to partner with the EDC on future programs for the town.

Ellen made a motion to cancel the scheduled EDC meeting for the month of July. The motion was seconded by Kirsten and passed unanimously. Ellen will notify the appropriate parties that the July meeting is cancelled.

6.0 Public Input

There was no public input at this meeting.

7.0 Adjourn

Kirsten made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. The motion was seconded by Chris and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chris Warner
Secretary EDC