

**PORTLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
PORTLAND LIBRARY – MARY FLOOD ROOM
20 FREESTONE AVENUE
JANUARY 9, 2024**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Robert Petzold called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Angela Hammond, Robert Petzold, Karen Renner, Sarah Weeden

Members Absent: Michael Nadolski

Staff Present: Dan Bourret (Town Planner)

III. ACCEPT AGENDA

Sarah Weeden made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Angela Hammond, all were in favor, motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting 11/14/2023

The approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

V. BUSINESS OF THE QUARTER AWARD: Gotta's Farm

Jackie Gotta was out-of-state. Two new nominations have been received.

VI. SEASONAL EVENTS

VII. BUSINESS SUPPORT/IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

A short discussion ensued regarding grants and the Chamber of Commerce. Dan again explained the difficulty in getting a listing of all businesses in the community and why the Chamber is hesitant to give out their information due to sharing. Dan will talk to the Chamber to see if they would come and present at a meeting. Sarah, as a business owner, explained how busy she is and is always juggling balls in the air and that the grant process isn't user-friendly.

VIII. UPDATES: BRAINERD PLACE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Brainerd Place: They are working on the foundation for Bldg. 4. They will be finalizing finances before moving ahead. Starbucks contacted Dan and will be moving forward. Dan said Brainerd needs to get working on the historical homes

Dollar General is waiting on the public water supply necessary for State approval. Chatham Health is holding off with the CO. All their shelves are stocked.

A new development is in the early stages of the process.

An application for a gas station has been received between DD and the concrete business.

Two more buildings have been approved at 1600 Portland Cobalt Road. They are awaiting the CO. The owner outfits police cars, etc.

The sound complaints have died down at Birdon. Their building is very impressive.

The owner of the United Bank Building is trying to rent it.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS INPUT/FEEDBACK

A discussion ensued regarding the interest in getting the businesses together. Sarah mentioned that it would be nice to see the Birdon building. Robert Petzold told how Chester and Wethersfield supports their activities. Sarah told how the Chamber helped them get their business started. Angela suggested coming up with a plan that will entice the businesses to come out. Maybe the Chamber could come and talk about grants. Dan will talk with Concentric regarding a possible location. Sarah suggested coming up with a date in the next meeting. Sarah suggested having a Facebook page for EDC.

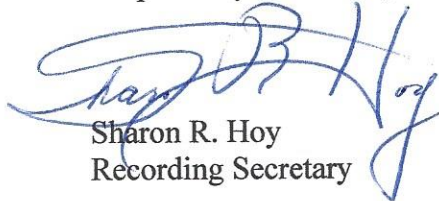
Angela suggested revitalizing the Beautification Committee.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

XI. ADJOURN

Karen Renner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sarah Weeden, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon R. Hoy
Recording Secretary