

Chaplin Economic and Community Development Commission
January 11, 2023
Minutes

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM
2. Leslie Ricklin volunteered to be the temporary recorder
3. Members present: I. Schein, L. Ricklin, J. Roman, C. Slowik
4. Additions to the Agenda: under New Business: F. Expired terms and G. Conservation Development discussion
5. Audience for Citizens: none
6. Approval of minutes of Nov. 9, 2022: Ricklin moved, Roman seconded to approve the minutes. So moved.
7. Old Business
 - a. Recruitment update: Members agreed to send out another letter by Googl Groups and on the town website. Roman asked if members have to be town residents. He will ask the town attorney and the town clerk. Members agreed.
 - b. Member reports: Roman presented a plan for creating a walkway designed by NECCOG to go between the Senior Center and the Town Hall and would included enlarging the Center parking lot, benches along the walkway, lighting. It would be around \$800,000.
 - c. Traffic Calming: Roman presented a plan for changing the entry to Chaplin St. from the southern end off Rt. 198 that would slow down the traffic as it entered the street. Proposal was made after an analysis from a UCONN group.
 - d. Energy watch: Tabled
 - e. Community Center use: Tabled
8. New Business

- a. Discuss and approve budget for 2023-24. This included the following 6 line items:

Business outreach:	\$1000
Mileage:	\$60
Postage:	\$200
Printing:	\$1000
Workshops/Conferences:	\$500
Recording Clerk:	<u>\$300</u>
Total	\$3,060

Ricklin moved, Roman seconded to approve a budget of \$3000. So moved.

- b. Report on conference of Council of Small Towns (COST) and further actions:

Members who attended the conference didn't find that the information shared was relevant to our town's needs but that COST can be a resource as Commission planning goes forward.

- c. Promoting town assets (i.e. tourism, website, online newsletter): Schein talked about producing an online brochure highlighting the environmental assets of the town (i.e. river activities, hiking trails, Garrison Park). Slowik asked about the coffin factory's use as an art center/gallery. Roman proposed making a short video highlighting Chaplin's assets. Slowik offered to send members a link to his video and website as an example. Budgetary needs were discussed to make such a video.
 - d. Funding grant watch...Northeast Connecticut Economic Alliance, Windham, serving the needs of small towns, providing loans and resources for business development. Discussion postponed to next meeting
 - e. Review comprehensive strategy document from NECCOG. Discussion postponed to next meeting.
9. Agenda items for next meeting:

Old Business: Energy Watch, Old Post Office development, Video

New Business: Funding grant watch, Comprehensive document from NECCOG

10. Schein thanked Ricklin and Rose for their service on the Commission. Their terms expire on February 1, 2023.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ricklin, temporary recorder