

# DRAFT

## Economic Development Commission Regular Virtual Meeting Minutes April 5, 2021

**Present:**

Joe Mirra, Chair  
Hank Baum, Commissioner  
Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner  
Gary Fappiano, Commissioner  
Mark Gingras, Vice-Chair  
Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner  
Jim Wolfe, Commissioner  
Anthony Bracale, Alternate  
Rob Fritz, Alternate

**Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist  
Stacey Hoppes, Secretary  
Kathy Lilley, Exec. Dir., WCI  
Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools

Chair Joe Mirra called the regular virtual meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:38 p.m. Chair Mirra explained how the EDC would conduct the virtual meeting.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Mirra led the EDC in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Presentation by Dr. Menzo, Wallingford Supt. Schools – Educational and Business Interface update** – Dr. Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Wallingford Schools was invited by the EDC to give a presentation on how the community, business, and education teams have continued to work together to create a partnership with a common goal of career development for our students. The high schools have multiple programs available in a variety of fields that give students the option to earn college credits to carry with them after graduating. Responding to feedback from the HUBCAP, Workforce Alliance, Dept. of Commerce, and the EDC, the Board of Education continues to add new learning opportunities for all age/grade levels. Commissioners stated that the partnership has a great synergy, and is vitally important to make Wallingford a destination for families and businesses.

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3. **Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Virtual Meeting Minutes dated April 5, 2021** – Jim Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Gingras seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

4. **Review of monthly Expenditure Report** – Hank Baum had a question regarding support for Simpson Court outdoor dining. Tim Ryan stated that was item #8 on the agenda. There being no other questions or comments, Joe Mirra went onto the next item.

5. **Committee remarks**

• **Marketing**

- **Update on committee activities** – Mark Gingras reported that at the last meeting with the QU Student Marketing Team (SMT) they mainly spoke about high level media marketing, including LinkedIn, Instagram, and email. All of these tools are going well and are continuing. Currently reaching out to Placement Offices at local colleges for Job Development. Facebook is a tool that they agree should be used, and the continuing discussion is, to what extent. Mark also stated that plans are being made to get the SMT and the Marketing Committee to present to the Town Council. Jim Wolfe stated that he joined the last Marketing Committee meeting and was very impressed; he suggested that the Commission try and join them on the next meeting dated April 12.

• **P&Z Liaison**

- **Update on committee activities** – Jim Wolfe said there was nothing to report. Projects the Committee has interest in are on hold.
- **Next meeting:** No meeting set.

• **Retention/Incentives**

- **Report on committee activities** – Gary Fappiano said they have not had a meeting this month, but that some of the Committee members are planning to attend the next Marketing Committee. Meeting on April 12.
- **Next meeting:** No meeting set. Getting a date together for end of April.

6. **Staff report/regional matters – February report** – Tim reviewed this staff report (*copy attached*) and the following items were noted:

- Bids have been opened for the parking lot project behind Simpson Court. The project will be awarded shortly and the improvements are scheduled to be completed by late spring or early summer. The updates of the Wallace Ave parking lots will be done by our Public Works Department and are scheduled for completion by end of summer

- 81                   ➤ Public Works is waiting for the STEAP Grant “execution agreement” from the State  
82                   to begin work on the parking lot at the corner of Hall Ave and North Cherry St  
83                   ➤ Wallingford will receive funds (estimated to be \$4.4million) via The American Rescue  
84                   Plan...the \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan. The Mayor has requested that this office  
85                   formulate a mechanism to determine eligibility and application for the funds as much  
86                   of the relief funding is targeted towards businesses that have been negatively  
87                   impacted by the COVID crisis. The Mayor would like us to handle the qualification,  
88                   application, and distribution of funds processes.
- 89                   ➤ Montante Construction, on behalf of Amazon, is on the agenda for plan review at  
90                   IWWC’s 4/7 meeting. Amazon is seeking approvals to build a 219,000 sf warehouse  
91                   on the former BMS site at 5 Research Parkway. They last presented to IWWC at their  
92                   November 2020 meeting...IWWC has this item on their agenda for their meeting this  
93                   Wednesday, April 7 at 7 pm
- 94                   ➤ WCI’s Executive Director reports that all businesses in Simpson Court showed  
95                   support for using the 8 parking spaces for the extension of outdoor dining as was  
96                   done last year. Public Works will install the barriers that frame in the outdoor dining  
97                   area
- 98                   ➤ The Mayor showed support of our 2021-2022 budget as presented. A public hearing  
99                   on the entire Town budget is scheduled for 4/12. Our EDC budget presentation to the  
100                   Council is scheduled for 4/20
- 101                   ➤ Please join me in welcoming Stacey Hoppes, program planning secretary, to our EDC  
102                   team
- 103                   ➤ We bid a very fond farewell along with best wishes to Lynn Wolfe as she is now  
104                   officially retired
- 105                   ➤ *Chamber’s new head starts on the job...R-J, 3/17...Ray Andrewsen is the new*  
106                   executive director of the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce as of Monday, March 15

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108 **7. Chair’s remarks** – Joe Mirra discussed that they are continuing to address the needs of small  
109 businesses in town. The HUBCAP is very active and the Pipeline Program is continuing. Mark  
110 Gingras wanted to share that the Mayor has been extremely supportive regarding our digital  
111 marketing initiatives, and has such great confidence in the EDC and its Marketing Committee.  
112 Gary Fappiano requested the link to the next EDC Marketing meeting. Tim Ryan stated that the EDC  
113 Secretary will send the links for the Marketing Meeting on April 12, and the Town Council Budget  
114 Meetings on April 12 and April 20 to the Commission once received.

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**8. Discussion and possible action on Support for Simpson Court outdoor dining** – Tim Ryan discussed how Gov. Lamont signed off on the House Bill allowing outdoor dining to continue throughout town. Town leadership met and unanimously support the continuation of outdoor dining as was done last year. Simpson Court businesses were approached by the WCI Exec. Director, and all are in support of common utilization of the barricaded area as was done last year. Public Works is pursuing the necessary barricades, to outline the 8 parking spaces used to create the dining area, for public safety as they did last year. The barricades that were used last year have been repurposed. In the event that Public Works does not have enough funds in time to cover the cost of the barricades, Tim Ryan is suggesting that they are purchased from the EDC 2021 Budget. Tim Ryan stated that, covering the cost of the barricades supports the Downtown and the Town Center as a whole. Mark Gingras asked, if purchased who would own the barricades? Tim Ryan stated that if purchased by EDC, they would be owned by the EDC and stored at Public Works for future use. Rob Fritz mentioned that it would be nice to have them carved with artwork. The Commission agreed that the detailed barricades would be nice, but if it takes too much time, get the non-detailed barricades for now so there is no delay. **Jim Wolfe made a motion to support the purchase of the barricades for Simpson Court using the EDC Budget if necessary; Hank Baum seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

**9. Other community business** – No other business.

**There being no further business, Jim Wolfe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.; Mark Gingras seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

Sincerely,

Stacey Hoppes, Secretary