

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
November 8, 2023
Conference Room A**

Present

Bill Wadsworth
Phil Chabot
Bob Reeve
Pete Ramchandani
Tommy Hyde
Warren Hua
Ed Giannaros

Staff

Rose Ponte

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rose Ponte at 5:30 pm.

B. Public Comment -

Farmington HS student, Baxter Arce, joined the meeting as part of her HS class. She introduced herself to the Commission.

C. To elect chairperson and Vice Chairperson

A motion was made and seconded (Reeve/ Ramchandani) to nominate Bill Wadsworth as Chairman and Dan Kleinman as Vice Chairman.

The motion carried.

Chairman Wadsworth proceeded with the meeting.

D. Reading of the minutes - Attachment 1

A motion was made and seconded (Hyde/ Hua) to accept the September 13, 2023 minutes. **The motion carried.**

E. To approve the 2024 EDC Meeting Schedule

A motion was made and seconded by Commissioners (Hyde / Ramchandani) to accept the 2024 annual meeting schedule. **The motion carried.**

F. Commissioner Hua to review the CEDAS Tour and Talk: All sides of the box A municipal playbook for Warehousing and E-Commerce

Rose had signed up to attend the CEDAS tour of the recently opened Amazon Fulfillment Center in Windsor CT but had a scheduling conflict. Commissioner Hua attended the CEDAS tour event on the Town's behalf. Commissioner Hua gave a PowerPoint presentation with photos showing Amazon's new warehouse and gave the Commission highlights of the tour.

G. Economic Development Report

- a. The first 2024 Business Breakfast will feature Stephanie Abrams, the Executive Director of the New England Air Museum. It will take place on February 14th.
- b. Anna at the Hill-Stead Museum hosted a meeting with Hill-Stead volunteers and Rose to discuss the Cultural District. Interested volunteers will contact Rose if they are interested in serving on the advisory committee.

- c. The 2023 Town Profiles were published by AdvanceCT. Rose reviewed the changes that took place from 2022 to 2023. The Town profile showed positive growth in jobs, median HH income and population.

H. Town Council Liaison Report

Councilman Giannaros reported on items from the October 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting.

1. The Town Council met with Jocelyn Kennedy, the new Farmington Library Director.
2. The Town of Farmington receives approximately \$16,000 in lease fees from our 6 tenant farmers each year. Due to record rainfall this year, Town-owned farmland has been negatively affected by flooding. Under similar circumstances in the past, the Town of Farmington has waived the yearly lease fee for the farmers. The Town Manager is recommending that the Town Council consider waiving the lease fee for 2023.
3. The Council accepted a \$20,000 donation from the Shepard family to assist in the purchase of a new minivan to be used for the Dial- a-Ride program. The Council will also accept a recurring donation from the Shepard Family Foundation for the upgrades of Dial-a-Ride vehicles.
4. The Council approved the proposed contract between the Farmington Administrators 'and Supervisors' Association and the Board of Education. It's a three-year contract that will commence on July 1, 2024. The contract included salary changes, annuity changes, insurance changes, and other agreements.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Chabot/Ramchandani) to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. **Motion carried.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Ponte Economic Development Director
CC: Economic Development Commissioners**