



**Ridgefield
Economic &
Community
Development
Commission**

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Arnold Light, Chairman
John Devine, Vice Chair, Secretary
Amanda Duff
Paul Levine
Geoffrey Morris
M. Augustus Ryer

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman

Approved RECDC Meeting Minutes
June 3rd, 2019 at 6:30pm
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

In Attendance: Arnold Light, Paul Levine, John Devine, Geoffrey Morris, Amanda Duff Gus Ryer

Absent: None

Public in Attendance: Cameron Cole Carcelén, Press

Meeting was called to order at 6:34PM. Motion by Arnold Light. Seconded by Amanda Duff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There will be no meeting in July. Instead, there will possibly be a brainstorming session, but the date and time is TBD.
2. The next meeting will take place August 5rd

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Geoff M. made a motion to approve the May minutes as amended. Seconded by John D. Unanimous approval.
2. Shared Services Project: Nick Ktorides has now made contact with all major landlords. He is in the process of discussing shared services with all parties and will update the ECDC on progress.
3. InRidgefield: Representatives from InRidgefield requested funds during the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting. There will be a follow-up discussion at the next BOS. In the meantime, all involved parties are meeting to discuss the project – Arnold L. will represent the ECDC and will update the Commission. Geoff M. noted that the Ridgefield ECDC is charged with advocating for the community as well as the town economy.
4. Retail Vacancy: John D. gave an update about a new retail shop (children's clothing) in the Central Business District, as well as a few warm leads for new businesses.

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5. Website + Marketing:
 - a. Amanda D. announced that we are now authorized users of the official CT Tourism website, <http://www.ctvisit.com/listings/town-ridgefield>. The ECDC has hired a local photographer, Katherine Wark, to shoot Ridgefield photographs for the site. She will be shooting all four seasons. The images can be used for our own website as well. The tourism site can be updated at will.
 - b. John Frey's bill (Arts and Cultural Districts) has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.
 - c. John D. notes that he and Amanda D. are working on Facebooks ads for Ridgefield's June events.
6. Residential Real Estate: John D. reports that the ECDC advertisement reached about 13,000 people, with almost 500 engaging and 28 shares. The ad's purpose was to attract NY residents to move to Ridgefield.
7. Jazz Fest: Geoff M. gave an update about the second "Jazz, Funk + Blues Weekend," which will take place the weekend of Sept. 8th. The lineup of events is further progressing, with most of the performances and events in place throughout the weekend. The Litchfield Jazz Festival will be sending several bands to play on Ridgefield's Town Hall steps.
8. RIFF: Geoff M. gave an update about the 2019 Ridgefield Independent Film Festival (RIFF), which will be held Oct. 10-13. RIFF has received a few hundred film submissions and is hoping to name the headline films in July. No major announcements have been made yet but will be soon. Venues are lining up. RIFF is now seeking additional financial and community support.
9. POCD: The final public hearing for the POCD will take place on June 18th. Arnold L. will supply several written suggestions to reiterate our positions and ECDC priorities to ensure they are included in the June 18th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Note that Planning & Zoning will be discussing the topic of hospitality at their next meeting, 6/4. Arnold L. suggests all attend who are able.
2. The Parking Authority is requesting a change to the CBD parking regulations. The change would base a property's parking space requirements on its businesses' types. Current regulations consider CBD properties as a whole and do not require an individual site to possess the amount of parking it would need elsewhere in town.
3. Paul L. suggested contacting the CT DECD Commissioner to see how Ridgefield and the State could cooperate, possibly with the Branchville TOD (sewer).

Motion to adjourn at 7:26 PM by John Devine. Motion seconded by Geoff Morris. Unanimous approval.