

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
August 10, 2021

PRESENT: Vice Chairman Robert Werner, Commissioners Hank Teskey, Richard Juel, John Hussaini, Phil Sengle

Guests: Tim Guerra and Dan Lofgren

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business:

Clinton Manufacturing Coalition: (B. Werner's notes attached):

- CMC is still a viable coalition
- Manufacturing is a booming business
- Hiring skilled workers remains the major challenge for these businesses
- Hope to schedule a meeting in December

Advanced Manufacturing Partnership update:

- A Core Team meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2021 to review the action plan packet
  - Goal is to put the action items on the District website
- It is the goal to revise the curriculum to enable students to receive high school and college credits to meet the needs for either going straight into the workforce or attending college
- The school will post the businesses and their job openings on their website

STEAP Grant Status:

- The façade design boards are located in the town hall lobby and other locations
- Economic Development Commissioners spoke to businesses between the Indian River and Hull Street
  - Received positive feedback and inclusion in the application process from the following businesses:
    - Coffee Break
    - Haircutters II
    - Zumba Studio
    - Shoreline Appliances
    - Grand Apizza
    - Carefree Boats
  - Applications are currently available

Part-time Business Liaison Position:

- The part-time business liaison position will be posted
  - The job description includes promoting and marketing the town

New Business:

- Discussed what is happening at the Unilever property
- Discussed robotic classes at Westbrook High School
  - Consider partnering with other schools
- It is invaluable to share information between boards, commissions and departments
  - Some EDC members will attend other meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy McDermott, Clerk

BW August 10 EDC Meeting notes

Old Business

**CMC update:**

August (TBD): Governor's Workforce Council, Regional Sector Partnership (RSP) – BW meet with Bill Villano, President and Jill Watson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Workforce Alliance (WA) in New Haven (They cover Clinton). State just launched with WA the RSP process.

Purpose of meeting: How to integrate Clinton manufacturers.

December (TBD): Set long overdue meeting.

Major challenge: As with almost all business sectors, getting help. "Business booming, all employees stretch to the nines to meet current demand. Some have to refuse orders i.e. As long as people have no incentive to work, this will continue."

**Advanced Manufacturing Partnership update:**

August 19: Core team meeting

1. Review the Action Plan packet (developed early 2019).
2. Review all action items (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How): Clarify, update, revise as needed.
3. Add new action items.
4. Work the plan.

Note: Working on getting posted so anyone can view