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5 **Economic Development Commission**  
6 **Regular Meeting Minutes**  
7 **May 6, 2019**  
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9 **Present:** Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner  
10 Gary Fappiano, Commissioner  
11 Mark Gingras, Commissioner/Acting Chair  
12 Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner  
13 Anthony Bracale, Alternate/Voting Member  
14 Rob Fritz, Alternate/Voting Member (after 6:38 p.m.)  
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16 **Absent:** Joe Mirra, Chair  
17 Jim Wolfe, Vice-Chair  
18 Hank Baum, Commissioner  
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20 **Others Present:** Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist  
21 Lynn Wolff, Secretary  
22 Robert DeMaio  
23 Edmund Hohmann  
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25 Acting Chair Mark Gingras called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30  
26 p.m.  
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- 28 1. **Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 1, 2019** – Patricia Cymbala  
29 made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By a  
30 unanimous vote of members present, the motion carried.  
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- 32 2. **Review of Monthly Expenditure Report** –Tim Ryan reminded Commissioners that, although the March  
33 report shows fairly large balance in Promotional Expenses, most of these funds are committed to the spring  
34 advertising campaign.  
35
- 36 3. **Committee Reports**
- 37 • **Marketing –**
    - 38 ➤ **Update on April 30 meeting:** Patricia Cymbala recapped the minutes of the last Committee  
39 meeting as attached to the agenda. Commissioners were pleased with the wafer card that the  
40 Marketing Committee ordered. Tim Ryan said only 50 cards were ordered so he plans to use the  
41 cards on a limited basis. Our two videos were preloaded on each card, leaving about 1 GB for  
42 someone to use as a regular flash drive. He urged the Commissioners to look at this promotional  
43 item and either use it or give it to a company interested in Wallingford. Patricia finished the report

44 by saying the Committee had reviewed draft talking points, a copy of which was distributed to  
45 each Commissioner. The Committee hopes to finalize this document at their next Committee  
46 meeting for distribution at the EDC's June meeting.

- 47 • **Next meeting:** May 30, 2019 @ 8:30 a.m.

- 48 • **P&Z Liaison –**

- 49 ➤ **Update on Committee activities:** Tim Ryan reported that the Davenport Associates and Radiall  
50 projects were approved. Jim Wolfe is currently attending a POCD meeting where he will continue  
51 to push for a review of open space coverage requirements in the IX and I-5 zones. It is felt that

52o \*\* Rob Fritz arrived at 6:38 p.m.

53 a reduction in the open space coverage requirement in these zones will help provide additional  
54 expansion opportunities for current companies.

- 55 ➤ **Next meeting –** None scheduled.

- 56 • **Retention/Incentives –**

- 57 ➤ **Update on Committee activities:** Gary Fappiano recapped the minutes from their April 4  
58 meeting. He asked if a list of invitees for the company visits was available; Tim Ryan said it was  
59 being finalized. Tim urged the EDC to block out 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 5/29 and 5/30 in their  
60 calendars – who goes to what meeting can be decided later. Gary said the Electric Discount  
61 Program was also discussed. Tim mentioned that two companies, that recently filled vacant  
62 space in the Town Center, plan to take advantage of this discount.

- 63 ➤ **Next meeting –** None scheduled.

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65 **4. Chair's remarks –**

- 66 • **Discussion and possible action regarding June 3 EDC meeting –** Mark Gingras said it was proposed  
67 that, since members must attend mandatory FOI training on June 6, the EDC consider having their June  
68 meeting at 5:30 p.m. before the 6:30 training. **Rosemarie Preneta made a motion to cancel the June**  
69 **3, 2019 regular meeting and hold a special meeting on June 6 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the FOI training;**  
70 **Patricia Cymbala seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

- 71
- 72 **5. Staff reports/regional matters –** Tim Ryan reviewed the April 2019 Activities report. Anthony Bracale said  
73 he (and Tim) attended a meeting at APS Technologies where the impact of the "silver tsunami" in  
74 manufacturing was discussed – nearly 1/3 of the workforce will retire within the next 10 years. This makes  
75 the STEM initiative even more important—workers are needed in manufacturing. Tim agreed there is a  
76 definite need. The CEO at Pratt & Whitney said they need to hire 15,000 people over the next 5-6 years just  
77 to fill the orders they currently have. Manufacturing jobs aren't what they used to be. At Pratt & Whitney, the  
78 CEO said, the job floors are as clean as the cafeteria. Tim added that local manufacturers are not running at  
79 capacity because they don't have enough workers. Also, Tim is working with Workforce Alliance on a  
80 possible hiring event held in Wallingford for Amazon, who needs to hire 1,800 full-time employees for their

81 North Haven facility. Seasoned staff from the Wallingford facility will supplement the workforce and  
82 Wallingford jobs will be backfilled.

83 Tim offered kudos to Joe Mirra for all his hard work at HUBCAP, which just celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

84 The condition of the John Street Bridge was discussed. Tim said this bridge needs to be watched –  
85 keeping that bridge in good condition is imperative to the companies doing business in that part of Town.  
86 Otherwise, truck traffic must use South Cherry Street, which is not ideal.

87 Tim said the Mayor sent a letter to our Legislative Delegation, asking them to contact DOT and  
88 encourage a shorter time for completion of the Center Street bridge.

89 The Restaurant HOP will be held May 8. Tim, Gary and their spouses plan to attend and invited the other  
90 members to join them.

91 Gary Fappiano commented that the videos on the wafer card look really good – it’s hard to tell they have  
92 been updated. Tim said the videos were purposely created in a way that allowed for easy updating without  
93 disturbing the look of the final video.

94

95 **6. Dates to Remember** – The EDC was reminded about important upcoming dates.

96

97 **7. Other Community Business** – Mr. Hohmann, whose wife works at Quinnipiac University, said the University  
98 is very involved in workforce training. Tim agreed and said QU is an active member of the STEM Committee.

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100 **There being no further business, Rosemarie Preneta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.;**  
101 **Anthony Bracale seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

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Sincerely,

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Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary

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Attachment

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