1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Rosario called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

Members Present:
Veronica Rosario, Chair
Joelle Murchison, Vice Chair
Jim Arsenault, Jr.
Brennden Colbert
Anita Morrison
John Morrison
Angie Parkinson

Members Absent:
None

Guests Present:
Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
Brennden Colbert is new to the commission. All attendees introduced themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Morrison moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting.
Mr. Arsenault seconded the motion.
All voted in favor, none voted opposed
Motion Passed

4. REVIEW OF CONTROL TOWER PROJECTS
Mr. Daniels presented a review of the Control Tower presentation given by Mayor Mike Walsh at a public meeting on January 19th. Top projects include redevelopment of Silver Lane Plaza, the Jasko Apartments at the Showcase Cinema Site, and the Logistics Center at Rentschler Field. Mr. Arsenault said that Frontier and Verizon are expanding their internet infrastructure in town in addition to SiFi’s Fiber City project.
5. **INTRODUCTION TO EAST HARTFORD CONNECTS**

Chair Rosario spoke about East Hartford CONNects, an initiative she has been involved with that came about as part of the Boston Fed’s Working Cities Challenge. It aims to provide educational, employment, and community engagement resources to underserved residents in town. Chair Rosario believes there is an opportunity for the commission to reach residents interested in entrepreneurship or career growth through East Hartford CONNects and help direct them to resources.

6. **BUSINESS VISIT SCHEDULE**

Business visits have been on hold for the holidays and then the omicron surge. When they are safe, the commission members discussed visiting Rebel Dog Coffee Co., East Hartford Brewing, and Horst Engineering.

7. **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Chair Rosario and Mr. Daniels talked about the Small Business Support Hours to take place at the Public Library, starting on January 28th and February 25th. The Chamber of Commerce and other small business experts will be in attendance to help connect people who own or are thinking about starting a small business with resources. Mr. Daniels said in addition to these open hours, the Development Department and Library will be working on direct outreach to businesses.

Chair Rosario suggested starting a volunteer project to paint a mural on the temporary cover over the entrance of the vacant Eastwood Theater. Ms. Morrison noted that the former Rogo Distributors building has a new tenant. Mr. Arsenault said it is a medical products company. Chair Rosario suggested the commission create a brochure introducing themselves and listing resources for small businesses that could be included in the welcome packet the Mayor’s Office is working on for businesses.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Morrison moved to adjourn.
Mr. Arsenault seconded the motion.
All voted in favor, none voted opposed
Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels
Economic Development Coordinator