

# Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

## COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301

Hudson, NY 12534

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) Board of Directors was held in person at their office located at One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301, Hudson, NY 12534 on August 31, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by David Fingar, Chair.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/ Departed
Ruth Adams	Board Member	Zoom non participant	
James Calvin	Vice-Chair	Present	
Richard Cummings	Board Member	Present	
Carlee Drummer	Board Member – Ex-Officio	Present	
David Fingar	Chair	Present	
Patricia Finnegan	Board Member	Excused	
Tarah Gay	Board Member	Present	
Derek Grout	Board Member	Excused	
James Lapenn	Board Member	Present	
John Lee	Treasurer	Present	
Kenneth Leggett	Board Member	Excused	
Michael Molinski	Board Member	Present	
Anita Otey	Board Member	Present	
Carmine Pierro	Board Member – Ex Officio	Excused	
Seth Rapport	Board Member	Present	
Richard Scalera	Board Member – Ex Officio	Excused	
Sarah Sterling	Secretary	Present	
Brian Stickles	Board Member	Excused	
Andy Howard	CEDC Attorney	Present	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present	
Lauren Cranna	Business Development Partner	Excused	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present	
Martha Lane	Business Development Director	Present	
Cathy Lyden	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper	Present	

### President/CEO Report:

Mr. Tucker reviewed the results of the broadband study presented to the joint meeting of the County Board of Supervisors Broadband Committee and the County Economic Development Committee. He noted the study was available on the CEDC website. He stated the broadband providers had been asked to check the list for their service area. Mr. Tucker stated pricing would be the next topic to address. Mr. Fingar stated most of the addresses fell within the current territories of the providers. He stated the second phase would be to reach out to other providers about serving those areas not currently being served by any providers.

Mr. Lapenn asked how the public should respond to the information. Mr. Tucker stated to point out if the information was correct or incorrect. He noted there was currently no money available to proceed with the implementation of the additional connections. This will get the basic information in order to determine the

amount of funding required. Mr. Tucker noted there will still be hurdles to overcome with connection, including distance to service connection, income and need for remote learning. Mr. Fingar stated there is an additional component to the connections. He noted the owners of the utility poles, whether electric or telephone, will need to move the telephone and electric lines in order to allow access for the broadband. He noted this was an expensive and time consuming process. He noted the two barriers to the providers is the cost of running miles of wire for a couple of houses. The other issue is the extensive paperwork and the bureaucracy required to get the money being offered. He noted if CEDC could address the paperwork and bureaucracy, it would offer an incentive to the providers for moving the project forward.

Mr. Tucker stated twenty-three Consolidated Funding Applications had been submitted from Columbia County in the last round. He reviewed the most recent housing sales numbers and the Columbia County sales tax numbers.

**Minutes, July 27, 2021:**

*Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lapenn to approve the minutes from July 27, 2021. Carried.*

**Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Tucker reviewed the distributed Treasurer's Report for the Board. *Mr. Cummings made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lapenn to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.*

**Committee Reports:**

**Governance and Nominating Committee:**

Mr. Fingar stated the Committee had met and assigned the new Board members committee assignments. He stated Ms. Gay would be serving on the Governance and Nominating Committee, Mr. Molinski would be serving on the Loan Committee and Ms. Otey would be serving on the Audit and Finance Committee.

**Loan Committee:**

**Portfolio Review:**

Ms. Lane stated payments on all the loans in arrears had been received, except for one, which had been contacted. *Ms. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lee to approve the Portfolio Report. Carried.*

Ms. Lane noted the closing of Culture Cream was scheduled to close on Friday. She noted she had 3 loans in the pipeline.

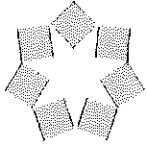
**Governance and Nominating Committee:**

Mr. Fingar stated the Committee had met and assigned the three new members to committees. Ms. Gay was assigned the Governance and Nominating Committee, Mr. Molinski was assigned the Loan Committee and Ms. Otey was assigned to the Audit and Finance Committee. Ms. Sterling noted the Committee would also be seeking two new board members to complete the Board.

Mr. Fingar stated the Employee Manual had been revised and reviewed at the last Committee meeting. Mr. Tucker stated there were two additional issues to be addressed in the manual, adding the Ethics Officer and the anti-hate speech language. Mr. Tucker stated the manual had been brought up to date and the changes didn't impact the staff, benefits, time off or rights. He noted it only addressed the required updates. *Mr. Lapenn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lee to approve the employee manual as presented. Carried.*

**Workforce and Education Committee:**

Mr. Lapenn reported a job fair had been held on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tucker stated the Committee discussed CEDC's future role in workforce and education projects and how that would impact the strategic plan. He stated the College would take the lead on the Junior Career Institute. He stated Chris Nardone of the Workforce NY Center would be taking a lead role in some of the projects. He noted the programs fall within his responsibilities.



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Ms. Lane stated the MicroBusiness Seminar Series would begin on September 28<sup>th</sup> and be held at the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. She noted she had 5 applications in hand.

## **Strategic Planning:**

Mr. Tucker stated Ms. O'Loughlin felt the strategic planning process didn't really work on Zoom. She now planned to reach out to CEDC officers and committee chairs for a 30 minutes one on one call then a session with the Board at the September meeting. Mr. Fingar felt a fresh look was needed at the pillars, in light of the many new projects.

*Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to enter Executive Session under New York Public Officers law Section 105 (f) to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Carried. Executive Session was entered at 9:23am.*

*Mr. Lapenn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lee to exit Executive Session. Carried. Executive Session ended at 9:28am.*

*With no other business to be conducted, and no public comment, Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to adjourn the meeting. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:30am.*

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drafusluk.*