



Town of  
**Deep River**  
CONNECTICUT

Peter Lewis, Chair  
Nicholas Kornacki, Vice Chair  
Susan Sbrolla, Secretary  
Theodore Mackenzie  
Maureen Quintin

## Economic Development Commission

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7pm EDT

Location: Zoom Platform (Meeting ID: 867 7276 1023, Passcode: 542234)

I. Call to order: Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Members in Attendance:

Peter Lewis, Nick Kornacki, Susan Sbrolla, Theodore Mackenzie

Guests:

Chelbi Wade, Shell and Bee Studio

Courtney Hendricson, AdvanceCT

Audience:

Mark Reyher, Tony Bolduc, Alan Paradis, Bobby Ghinder, Mirian, Dan

III. Acceptance of Minutes: Upon *Motion* by Lewis, seconded by Kornacki then carried unanimously, the Minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting were accepted as presented.

IV. Old Business

a) Chelbi Wade is moving Shell and Bee Studio to the former Pandemonium space. SoMA, South of Main Art Collective, was founded in an effort to form a creative collective where workshops, events and classes are run. Wade is closing the studio in May for renovations and plans to reopen June 11, 2021. Wade stated the ADA issue has not been resolved. Kornacki agreed to work with Selectman McDonald to investigate state grants for ADA compliance. Wade has met with Essex Economic Development Commission and wishes to connect Essex and Deep River art wise. Attached is additional information about the collective including mission, programs and class offerings.

b) Courtney Hendricson, of AdvanceCT discussed specific categories that will be included in the survey draft including demographics, Life in Deep River, town services, development, and infrastructure. Tony Bolduc suggested the survey include a question regarding recreational marijuana in Deep River. The Commission agreed. Lewis proposed a September 2021 release. Hendricson stated the survey will be powered by Survey Monkey. Hendricson agreed to attend the May 17, 2021 regular meeting with a draft of survey questions.

V. New Business

a) Kornacki provided an update from the recent Deep River Elementary School Board of Education budget meeting stating a required budget cut could impact a teaching position. There was discussion on whether EDC should get involved. Reyher suggested enrollment information be obtained for further discussion.

b) Reyher stated Atwood Auto is interested in opening a carwash near the current site. It was suggested George attend the next regular meeting to discuss the business plan.

VI. Adjournment: Upon *Motion* by Lewis, seconded by Sbrolla and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:04pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 17, 2021 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Sbrolla

Secretary

From Chelbi Wade: Thank you again for letting me join in on the meeting today and get to talk a little bit about myself and my business. I appreciate all your help in finding resources to help the studio get ready for the opening. There are definitely a lot of moving parts but we are really excited to see what the studio will be able to offer Deep River and the surrounding area. Here is a little information regarding a few points we discussed tonight.

**SoMA:** SoMA, which stands for "South of Main Art Collective" was founded in an effort to form a creative collective where workshops, events, & classes are run. We are focused on connecting community and arts. Regularly scheduled art openings, and events where clients and community members can connect with artists and makers

The mission of SoMA is to foster connections among artists and the public that ignite the creative spirit. The studio provides opportunities for interactions in the arts. we bring affordable art programs to the southern Connecticut area with art opportunities and resources to artists, students, and community members. Our main purpose is to create a creative sanctuary with classes, workshops, events, and opportunities for community members to help connect them to the art world.

The art collective is home base for individual artists, who will use the space to further their art and create learning opportunities for both youth and adults. In addition to the artist studio spaces. Our current artist residing at SoMA are Linalynn Schmelzer with River Valley Dance Project, Erin Gordon with Wellness Room Deep River, and Jeni Grey-Roberts with RiverFire Glass. Shell & Bee Studio will run full art programs out of 3 classrooms, and we have a studio store that celebrates local makers and artists, and gallery event space.

We host an art opening the 3rd Friday of every month that showcases one local artist or a small group of artists. We also host quarterly Sunday art markets. Check out our events for more details

**Opening:** Grand Opening on Friday June 11th from 6:00-8:00 with Chow! food truck, music by Local Honey, and drinks from High Nine Brewing. Studio classroom will be open to children of all ages for drawing and coloring during the event. Link here:

<https://www.somadeepriver.com/events/grandopening>

**Summer Program:** Our summer program is broken down into 2 different age groups and classrooms. Our primary program is geared towards ages 3-6 while the elementary program is perfect for students 7-12. Summer program will run for 6 weeks out of the summer with a different art focused theme each week. Camp runs Monday through Friday from 8:30-1:00 with extended hours available from 1:00-3:00. More information and summer registration can be found here:

<https://www.shellbeestudio.com/summerprogram>

**Class Offerings:** We send out a monthly newsletter with updated in studio class and virtual class options. We also post the classes regularly to social media Class offerings for Shell & Bee Studio can be found here: <https://www.shellbeestudio.com/classes>. Anyone who wants to attend classes or find out more can email, call, or fill out a registration form directly off the website at <https://www.shellbeestudio.com/form>

The other businesses and artists working out of SoMA can be found at the SoMA website. They will hold regularly scheduled classes and workshops as well! <https://www.somadeepriver.com/our-artists>