Economic Development Commission

About Us

The Old Lyme Economic Development Commission (EDC) supports economic investment and revitalization of existing businesses while attracting new commerce and cultural opportunities complementing the true spirit and character of the community, resulting in long-term employment and a diversified economic base further benefiting the quality of life for all who live in and visit Old Lyme.

The EDC is committed to working openly and collaboratively with all stakeholders, especially town residents and local business owners, in a manner that will maintain and strengthen the local economy while preserving the charm and character of Old Lyme and protecting the town’s natural and cultural resources.

“Smart” Economic Development

Economic development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of the local community are improved. Economic development does not necessarily mean “growth.” The EDC wants to encourage businesses, individuals, and public agencies to continue investment in the community even during periods of population decline. Building on ongoing investment(s), rather than growth as defined by increasing employment, population, or tax base, is a “smart” economic development strategy.

September 2019
ARTICLE V Economic Development Commission [Adopted 3-29-1966]


There is hereby established an Old Lyme Economic Development Commission for the promotion and development of the economic resources of the municipality, with powers and duties set forth in C.G.S. § 7-136, as amended.

§ 20-12. Membership; terms of office. [Amended 1-27-2003]

There shall be nine members of such Commission, the original members of which shall be appointed by the Town Meeting at the time of the adoption of this article, one to serve for five years, two to serve for four years, two to serve for three years, two to serve for two years, and two to serve for one year. Thereafter members shall be appointed for the term specified in Chapter 101, Officers and Employees, Article V, Terms of Office.


The Board of Selectmen shall appoint members to fill all vacancies and expired terms.


Any members appointed by the Board of Selectmen may be removed by the Board of Selectmen for cause and, on request of such member, after public hearing.

§ 20-15. Compensation; appointment of employees.

The members shall receive no compensation for their services as such but shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The Commission may appoint employees necessary for the discharge of its duties.

§ 20-16. Effective date.

This article shall become effective on and after May 1, 1966, and the terms of members shall commence on said date.
State Statute

State Statute Sec. 7-136. Municipal economic development commissions. (a) Any town, city or borough, by ordinance, may accept the provisions of this section and may establish an economic development commission for the promotion and development of the economic resources of such municipality. The ordinance shall specify (1) the number of members of such commission, which shall be not less than five or more than fifteen, and the number of alternates, if any, (2) whether the members and alternates shall be elected or appointed by the chief executive authority of the municipality and (3) the terms of the members and alternates, which (A) in the case of appointed members shall not exceed five years and shall be so fixed that the terms of approximately one-fifth of the members shall expire each year and (B) in the case of elected members shall not exceed six years and shall be so fixed that the terms of approximately one-fifth but no more than two-fifths of the members shall expire in each odd-numbered year. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, the legislative body of any town, city or borough which elects members and alternates may provide for a reasonable method of transition for such offices which may include reasonable extension of such terms and provision for interim terms. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the chief executive authority. Any such alternate members shall, when seated, have all the powers and duties of a member of the commission. In any case in which the members of the commission or alternates are appointed by the chief executive authority, any member or alternate may be removed by such authority for cause and, on request of such member or alternate, after public hearing. The members and alternates of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services as such but shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The commission may appoint employees necessary for the discharge of its duties.

(b) The commission shall conduct research into the economic conditions and trends in its municipality, shall make recommendations to appropriate officials and agencies of its municipality regarding action to improve its economic condition and development, shall seek to coordinate the activities of and cooperate with unofficial bodies organized to promote such economic development and may advertise and may prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets which in its judgment will further its official purposes.

(c) The commission shall annually prepare and transmit to the legislative body of its municipality a report of its activities and of its recommendations for improving such economic conditions and development.

(d) Any municipality which establishes an economic development commission may annually appropriate for its purposes a sum not exceeding one-twentieth of one per cent of the last-completed grand list of taxable property.