

**TOWN OF ASHFORD  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 24, 2014**

**PRESENT:** R. Fenn, M. Gantick, Margaret Chatey, John Calarese,  
Gary Lawrence, W. Darcy, R Williams,  
Akaya McElveen (Reporter, Willimantic Chronicle)

1. **Call to Order** - 7:45 PM
2. **Seating of Alternates** - None
3. **Approval of Minutes** - motion to approve Gantick, second Fenn; passed
4. **Budget**
  - a. No expenditure.
  - b. Motion to approve report Fenn, second Lawrence; passed
5. **Communications and Announcements**
  - a. Announcements
    - i. A possible contact for artisan businesses was discussed; Willimantic Arts Group called CHAT
    - ii. A federal grant for a NE corridor rail project was discussed
    - iii. Ashford Energy Task Force tours the proposed wind turbine site with Pioneer Wind Energy this past month
    - iv. Possible membership in CCAPA was discussed. There is a national planning organization
  - b. News from Other Commissions - see below
  - c. ABA News
    - i. Plans are being finalized for the Business Expo early next year
    - ii. Membership is now at 45
    - iii. Presently exploring application for 501 (c) (6) status
    - iv. Launch of the new Ashford Citizen was again discussed. Margaret will interview Donna at Dizee's for a Citizen story
  - d. Correspondence and Meetings - none
  - e. Presentations - none
6. **Old Business**
  - a. Website Modifications (Rettenmeier, Chatey) - Updates continue and are 99% complete. Gary has taken over 100 pictures to be used by website and bank pitch..
  - b. CERC Site Finder (Fenn)
    - i. Further discussion of expansion of Cumberland Farms in Warrentonville. They are looking at both existing location and new properties. Possible properties at intersection of Rts. 44 & 74
    - ii. Discussion of Properties Currently Listed - no activity on the properties listed, there are 2 openings

- iii. Discussed other business activities and concern about critical mass of retail in the town.
    - iv. Additions and/or Deletions of Listings - None..
  - c. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick)
    - i. Ray gave summary of the first Core Group meeting.
    - ii. Public meeting date is 11/12/14 in Knowlton Hall
    - iii. Agreed to sponsor a table to promote the meeting at the 300th event on 10/11/14
    - iv. Motion by Fenn, seconded by Gantick to spend up to \$200 to make signs and save the date handouts - approved.
  - d. Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
    - i. Ready to meet with Liberty Bank. Margaret will get dates.
  - e. PZA Zoning Regulations Re-Write ( Williams)
    - i. Regulations are final and a copy is on the PZC page on the town website.
    - ii. A vote to approve will be held on 10/14/14
  - f. Wagon Shed Property (Fenn, Darcy) - Discussed status and expect draft report within 1 or 2 months.
    - i. First rough draft at white paper done
    - ii. Discussions with tax collector, town attorney, and BOS office has uncovered addition documents
    - iii. New documents will be reviewed and another draft of white paper prepared.
  - g. Buy Local Initiative - Next steps discussion -- no report

**7. New Business**

- a. .none.

**8. Input From Public - none**

**9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None**

**10. Adjournment - 9:15 PM**