

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 19, 2104**

PRESENT: M. Gantick, Margaret Chatey,
Gary Lawrence, W. Darcy, R Williams, Akaya McElveen (guest)

- 1. Call to Order - 7:35 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes -** motion to approve Lawrence, second Gantick; passed
- 4. Budget**
 - a. Reviewed expenditures for OT-OF.
 - b. Motion to approve report Darcy, second Lawrence; passed
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements
 - i. Discussion of status of Cumberland Farms redevelopment/upgrade. No real solid news as to status. Discussed option of being proactive and potential alternate locations. Williams will explore with BOS.
 - b. News from Other Commissions - none
 - c. ABA News
 - i. Applications are being received for the Business Expo on 01/31/14
 - ii. Membership is now at 47
 - iii. Application for 501 (c) (6) status is complete
 - iv. ABA website is to be re-done. A vote on a vendor was held and HiBu (Sue Supina) was selected
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings - none
 - e. Presentations - none
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Website Modifications (Rettenmeier, Chatey) -
 - i. Updates continue, including adding the new pictures taken by Gary
 - ii. EDC minutes will be added and Williams sent Chatey PDF copies of past 6 months.
 - iii. Details of the page on the OT-OF initiative were discussed - action Gantick and Chatey
 - iv. The EDC page for the town website is complete and will be submitted.
 - b. CERC Site Finder (Fenn)
 - i. Dan Levine contacted Williams concerning a listing for the old Mr. Butcher property. There are currently 2 openings. Williams will refer him to Ray to submit the info to CERC.

- ii. Further discussed the CERC economic development training. Agreed to invite BOS and other commissions, and schedule in Feb/March next year. Action - Williams.
- c. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick)
 - i. Mike gave status report..
 - ii. Public meeting was held 11/12/14 at 7:00 PM in Knowlton Hall.
 - 1. 46 people attended; most were middle age and older; discussed how to attract younger people
 - 2. Substantial interaction with attendees. Familiar theme of preserving rural nature of the town; but also want to see responsible development
 - 3. Idea of an "enterprise zone" at rt. 44/rt.74 was discussed.
 - iii. Next core meeting 12/15/14 at 7:00 PM and next public meeting Jan. 14th at 7:00 PM
- d. Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. Ready to meet with Liberty Bank. Team are to propose dates.
- e. PZA Zoning Regulations Re-Write (Williams)
 - i. New regulations will go into effect 11/1/14
 - ii. Next activity (after first of the year) is to complete those special regulations not finished in Section 6
- f. Wagon Shed Property (Fenn, Darcy) - No activity.
- g. Buy Local Initiative - Next steps discussion
 - i. New brochure is 95% complete. Margaret will finalize. Plan to print and distribute via an insert to the Citizen
 - ii. Margaret will prepare a Buy Local add for the Citizen for Christmas

7. New Business

- a. .None.

8. Input From Public - none

9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

10. Adjournment - 9:10 PM