

**TOWN OF ASHFORD  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, April 22, 2015**

**PRESENT:** M. Gantick, John Rettenmeier, Ray Fenn, M. Chatey, G. Lawrence  
W. Darcy, R Williams

- 1. Call to Order - 7:43 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes -** motion to approve Gantick, second Darcy; passed
- 4. Budget**
  - a. Reviewed expenditures YTD. \$1,358 remaining of which \$300 is committed to the OTOF website. Discussed potential expenditures. Will get new EDC and Ag flyers printed.
  - b. Motion to approve expense report Fenn, second Gantick; passed.
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
  - a. Announcements
    - i. Windham Chamber - Ashford Business of the Year.
      1. Westford Hill Distillers was nominated by motion from Williams; second by Fenn; passed unanimously with one abstention (Chatey).
  - b. News from Other Commissions
    - i. Ag commission will host a Bees and Pollination Workshop jointly with Willington and Mansfield in May at Knowlton Hall
    - ii. Ray will attend a Mill Restoration Workshop to network with environmental remediation companies.
  - c. ABA News
    - i. First Car show is May 28th.
    - ii. Discussed a press release highlighting the 2014 donations to area civil organization. Chatey will develop a draft. Similar activities in 2015 will be limited because of 503(c)(6) rules.
    - iii. Ray asked if ABA was interested in business seminars. John R. will bring it up at the next ABA meeting.
  - d. Correspondence and Meetings - reminded group of the CERC Economic Develop Workshop on 5/21/15 and Regional Economic Development Meeting in Mansfield on 5/28/15..
  - e. Presentations - none
- 6. Old Business**
  - a. Website Modifications (Darcy, Chatey) -
    - i. EDC website is stable and does not currently need any updates..
    - ii. OT-OF website is "live" but needs to have content added. Margaret has materials from Gantick and is working on uploading the content

- iii. Discussed adding section on the POCD and if any additional funds were required. Also asked that the invoice for the second payment be submitted ASAP.
    - iv. Agreed not to go public with the website address until most content is uploaded.
  - b. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick)
    - i. Fenn reviewed the projects identified by the Core Committee
    - ii. Next Public meeting is planned for June 9th at 7:00 PM Knowlton Hall
    - iii. Public meeting will be focused on establishing teams for each of the projects.
  - c. Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
    - i. Date has been set for later this week (4/24/2015) to meet with Liberty. Chatey, Lawrence, and Calarese will attend for the EDC
    - ii. The group will report back on the meeting next month and this activity will be folded into the larger planning project for West Ashford
  - d. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone
    - i. This project will focus on revitalization and development of the properties along RT 44 and RT 74 in West Ashford. It will build upon the work done by the EDC in the late 2000's
    - ii. There was considerable discussion as to why this area has failed to develop for over 2 decades. Also concern about the how the image of abandoned buildings and empty store fronts reflects on Ashford
    - iii. Ray Fenn will pull together all of the work down previously
    - iv. Next steps will be to dedicate an EDC meeting to the subject and/or have a special meeting. Will discuss further at next EDC meeting.
  - e. PZC and the POCD( Williams)
    - i. The first POCD meeting will be held on May 4th and approximately every two weeks during most of the summer.
    - ii. John Filchak will facilitate the meetings and work the mechanics of writing the POCD
    - iii. The meetings are public meeting and open to anyone interested.
  - f. Wagon Shed Property (Fenn, Darcy)
    - i. Again discussed the need for a Executive Session with the BOS
    - ii. Williams will try to get subject on BOS agenda in May
  - g. Buy Local Initiative - Next steps discussion
    - i. No activity to report

**7. New Business**

- a. none

**8. Input From Public - none**

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

**10. Adjournment - 9:40 PM**