

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 0627
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

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

- 1. Call to Order - 7:40 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes -** Approved minutes for the August meeting with following modification; insert "among some members" after the word "desire" in item 5.b.i - Fenn/Lawrence; passed
- 4. Budget**
 - a. Incurred \$85.85 to print 1000 cards Vista Print promoting Small Business Saturday (Chatey)
 - b. Group is to prepare estimates of all fiscal year potential expenses and bring to next meeting.
 - c. Motion to accept report - Chatey/Fenn; passed
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements -
 - i. Family Day - Fenn, Darcy, and Williams manned booth. Good overall attendance and interest in handout materials (EDC, ABA, and CT ED).
 - b. News from Other Commissions
 - i. PZC - Cumberland Farm presented their plans at the PZC meeting on 9/14/15. EDC again discussed the project at length. Cumberland will be submitting a wet lands permit this month; assuming approval PZC will vote on the application at the 10/13 meeting. This meeting will be open to public comment.
 - c. ABA News
 - i. Last regular car show is tomorrow evening
 - ii. Special car show and Chicken Barbeque planned for Sunday Oct. 4th.
 - iii. Small Business Saturday - All tables are sold out.
 - iv. Need to set a date for the Expo. Presently trying to have the date coincide with another Library event in Knowlton Hall.
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings
 1. none
 - e. Presentations - none

6. Old Business

- a. Website Modifications (Darcy, Chatey) -
 - i. EDC website - no activity this past month..
 - ii. POCD section is operational. POCD Draft will be posted next month.
- b. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick)
 - i. A1 Station clean up completed; plywood has been donated to "face" the building; and artists are being lined up to do the mural.
 - ii. Next public meeting is on Oct 20th at 7:00 PM in Knowlton Hall.
 - iii. All projects are staffed except the Communication Project..
- c. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (also includes Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. Bank Solicitation - no activity
 - ii. Enterprise Zone
 - 1. Marketing of the town owned property on Rt. 44 was discussed a length, as was the process
 - 2. The document describing the marketing pitch for the property to the BOS is still under development. Ray will complete this and send out to the EDC members in about one week. The EDC members will review before Ray and Gary go to the BOS.
 - iii. Existing Buildings and Businesses
 - 1. The need to develop a plan was discussed at length during last month's meeting. It was felt the best place to start was to talk to existing businesses and building owners.
 - a. Ray will contact Assessor to get an update list of all businesses in the town..
- d. PZC and the POCD(Williams)
 - i. The POCD Committee is meeting three times this month. Next meeting is 9/29/15
 - ii. A status update on the POCD was written by Williams and will be published in the next issue of the Citizen
 - iii. The POCD Committee is presently close to on track to complete the Draft by the end of September. The meeting on the 29th will be key.
- e. Wagon Shed Property (Darcy)
 - i. Still waiting for formal reply from DEEP
 - ii. Lower level staff indicate it is in the works. Will continue to monitor.
- f. Buy Local Initiative
 - i. Discussed the SBS event. Chatey handed out event promotion cards to the group. EDC paid to print 1000 cards that will be distributed throughout Ashford and adjacent towns.

7. New Business

- a. Williams discussed the DEEP RFP for Renewal Energy Generation and potential impact on Exit 72.
 - i. Smaller wind farms are included in the RFP of the scale that could be sited near Snow Hill.
 - ii. The Colebrook wind farm is nearing completion with two 3 MW turbines installed and a third underway. Each turbine will be 492 ft. tall. Fair Wind CT is planning on monitoring the sound emissions when the facility is operational. The wind developer is also planning to install a second farm of three turbines south of the first installation.
 - iii. The FAA requires wind farm developers to submit plans for their approval. Pioneer Green Energy submitted plans for the Union site and their siting was deemed a navigation hazard. It is unclear how this could impact Ashford.

8. Input From Public - none

9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

10. Adjournment - 9:20 PM