

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016**

PRESENT: J. Rettenmeir, G. Lawrence, W. Darcy, R. Fenn,
R Williams, M. Chatey, J. Calarese

- 1. Call to Order - 7:45 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – Fenn/Rettenmeir; passed**
- 4. Budget**
 - a. \$1,750 funds are left. Spoke with Mike Zambo about funds for website. He indicated there might be a small amount of extra. Will go back to him when we get firm quotes on the website
 - b. Motion to accept report – Darcy/Fenn; passed
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements -
 - i. Fenn/Chatey brought up the Quiet Corner Business Development Initiative at UConn. Margaret will send link to the rest of the group. Ray will contact UConn to get additional info.
 - b. News from Other Commissions
 - i. Finance - Town budget is showing a decrease that may lead to a reduction in the Mill Rate. All of this is dependent upon no cuts in the state funds
 - c. ABA News
 - i. New business brochure is being printed
 - ii. ABA will consider a donation to the OT-OF A1 project
 - iii. Membership is increasing with new members from surrounding towns, including Mansfield. Membership is now over 70.
 - iv. Car shows will resume again in June on the last Thursday of the month each month until September
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings
 1. none
 - e. Presentations - none
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Website Modifications (Darcy, Chatey, Gantick) -
 - i. Darcy/Chatey took the SOW to three vendors for quotes
 1. Quasar - \$1,820
 2. Mad Communications - \$1,800 to \$2,000
 3. Image Works - \$3,500
 - ii. Image Works (the present website vendor) was ruled out as non-responsive and too expensive

- iii. A list of questions was prepared for the remaining two vendors. Darcy will submit the questions to the vendors
 - iv. Darcy/Chatey will review the responses and make a recommendation at the next meeting. The Commission will vote of how to proceed.
- b. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
 - i. A public meeting on the UConn lead landscape design for the West Ashford/Warrenville SPA was held on March 9 at 7:00 PM in Knowlton Hall. About 15 citizen attended. The group had productive exchanges with the students and the project is off to a good start.
 - ii. The A1 station beautification project is well underway.
 - 1. The design is complete and the owner has given permission to proceed
 - 2. There will be status meeting next month to finalize cost estimates and identify sources of funding
 - 3. Ashford School will likely have several students help with the project and several other local artists have agreed to participate.
- c. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (also includes Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. Bank Solicitation – no report
 - ii. Enterprise Zone
 - 1. No report
- d. Wagon Shed Property (Darcy)
 - i. Darcy, Williams, and Fenn recapped the discussion at the BOS meeting. There considerable discussion within the EDC as how best to proceed. The EDC still feels the best course of action is to send letters to both the DEEP and AG, and solicit support from CCM, COST, and our legislative representatives. However, this is not supported (at this time) by the BOS.
 - ii. It was agreed that the EDC pass a formal resolution to the BOS requesting a written legal opinion from the Town Attorney concerning application of the Innocent Landowner statute to the Cadlerock Properties. Motion: Calarese/Lawrence; pass unanimously.
 - iii. Williams will deliver the resolution and supporting documents to the BOS this week.
- e. Buy Local Initiative
 - i. UConn is starting a “live local” initiative. The idea is somewhat like the artist open studio tours. It was thought that this might be a potential project for the OT-OF/EDC

7. New Business

- a. Williams briefed the group on the Plan4Heath project being run out of the Eastern Highlands Health District office. There will be meetings in Coventry and Vernon next month.

8. Input from Public - None

9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

10. Adjournment - 9:40 PM

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair