

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2016**

PRESENT: G. Lawrence, R Fenn, Mike Gantick
R Williams, M. Chatey, J. Rettenmeir

- 1. Call to Order - 7:45 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – Motion Gary/Ray - Approved**
- 4. Budget**
 - a. No expenditures
 - b. Motion to accept report – John R./Mike; passed
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements -
 - i. Business and Farm Green Energy Meeting is planned for Oct. 10th. Co-sponsored by the Conservation and Ag Commissions, the ABA and Ashford Clean Energy Task Force.
 - b. News from Other Commissions
 - i. PZC:
 1. Revisions to the Land Use Regulations continue.
 2. EDC is on the PZC agenda for the Oct. 11th meeting
 3. The fee ordinance subcommittee is finished its review and will also present on the 11th.
 - c. ABA News
 - i. The last car show was held last week and was another success. Over 65 tickets were sold for the Chicken Dinner.
 - ii. Planning for the 2017 Expo is underway with the date TBD.
 - iii. It was decided to not hold the Holiday craft show because it conflicts with St. Phillips Christmas sale
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings
 1. A letter of appreciation for Bill Darcy's work on the EDC was reviewed and signed by the committee
 - e. Presentations - none
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. EDC Marketing and Communications
 - i. Margaret prepared a detailed outline of the presentation to the PZC
 - ii. The presentation will focus on EDC history, accomplishments, goals for near future and exploring ways for the EDC to work together
 - iii. A considerable amount to the meeting was focused on adding details to the outline. Margaret will finalize the presentation.

- b. Website Modifications (Williams, Chatey, Gantick) -
 - i. No activity this past month
 - ii. Margaret will contact MadComm in the coming month.
- c. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
 - i. The BOS voted to formally recognize the OT-OF as a sub-committee of the BOS.
 - ii. The work on the A1 station mural is 99% complete. The banner giving credit to those worked on and/or financially supported the project has been prepared by Anything Printed. When all is complete they plan to seek TV and print coverage
 - iii. The Art Council is increasingly active. Their new Facebook page has 111 likes and they will hold their first show, A Holiday Artist Market in Knowlton Hall on No. 19th.
 - iv. The OT-OF is now considering new projects for 2017.
- d. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (also includes Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. Bank Solicitation – no report
 - ii. Enterprise Zone
 - 1. The potential of getting a state grant to take the UConn study to the next level was discussed again. Williams spoke with Rep. Belsito asking for help. Rep. Belsito sits on the Economic Development Committee
 - iii. Marketing the old Sneakers property to local restaurant groups was discussed. The building owner is on board and supportive. Next step will be to take the pitch to restaurant groups.
- e. Wagon Shed Property
 - i. No action until hear back from BOS.
- f. Buy Local Initiative
 - i. No Report

7. New Business

- a. Recruitment of new EDC members
 - i. Efforts continue.

8. Input from Public - None

9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

10. Adjournment - 9:20 PM

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair