

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2016**

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

- 1. Call to Order - 7:40 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – Motion Gary/Mike - Approved**
- 4. Budget**
 - a. No expenditures
 - b. Motion to accept report – Mike/Gary; Approved
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements -
 - i. Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing on 11/9/16 concerning variance Article 6D, Section 2 of the Ashford Zoning Regulations to reduce the required number of parking
 - ii. BOS to have Public Hearing on proposed Fracking Ordinance on 11/21/16
 - b. News from Other Commissions
 - i. PZC:
 1. Revisions to the Land Use Regulations continue.
 2. The fee ordinance subcommittee presented its recommendation on 10/11/16. Williams is charged with preparing a draft.
 - c. ABA News
 - i. The search candidates for officers is underway.
 - ii. Planning for the 2017 Expo is underway with the date coordinated with Scout's Flower Sale
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings - None
 - e. Presentations - none
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. EDC Marketing and Communications
 - i. Margaret made the presentation to the PZC on how the EDC and PZC can collaborate. The presentation was well received with many comments and questions. Mike and John C also attended the meeting. An agreement was made to have the building office fill out a form when a new business makes an inquiry. There was also a request for EDC to prepare a brochure on our activities for the building office.

- ii. It was agreed that the next presentation should be to the BOS. The goal will be to secure BOS support for EDC activities. The content of the presentation was discussed at length. Margaret will prepare a draft. Williams will contact the BOS to get on their agenda in December.
- b. Website Modifications (Williams, Chatey, Gantick) -
 - i. No activity this past month
- c. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
 - i. The work on the A1 station mural is complete. The banner giving credit to those worked on and/or financially supported the project has been prepared by Anything Printed and the team has mounted it on a frame to the right of the building. However, someone has already knocked it down! Mike and Margaret prepared a press release that generated a story in the Hartford Courant. A posting of this story on the OT-OF FB page generated over 1,800 views. Additional publicity will be sought.
 - ii. The Art Council is increasingly active. They continue to add new members and they will hold their first show, A Holiday Artist Market in Knowlton Hall on No. 19th.
 - iii. The OT-OF has agreed to meet monthly on third Tuesday and continues to consider new projects for 2017.
 - iv. The UConn presentation is posted on the OT-OF website. Funds are required to keep the site operational. It will require about \$100/year. Motion for EDC to provide the funds Williams/ Mike – passed.
- 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. Mike shared an RFP from CRCOG and indicated that there should be similar opportunities to secure state funding via NECCOG. Mike contacted John Filchak but he has not returned the call. Ray will call John.
 - 2. CTDOT is planning on upgrades to the Rt44/74 intersection and about 50 others in the state. They contacted the BOS to see what Town plans were for the area. The EDC felt it might be an opportunity to discuss the UConn study with the DOT; maybe even get some funds from the state. The EDC will discuss this when we meet with the BOS.
 - iii. Marketing the old Sneakers property to local restaurant groups was discussed. Margaret distributed “sell sheets” to the group. We discussed which restaurant groups to contact and made assignments within the members.

- e. Wagon Shed Property
 - i. The BOS met with DEEP on 10/19/16. Will discuss next steps when EDC meets with the BOS.
- f. Buy Local Initiative
 - i. Discussed contacting the ABA to have them support the initiative.

7. New Business

- a. Recruitment of new EDC members
 - i. Efforts continue.
- b. Approval of 2017 Meeting Dates – proposed dates were reviewed. Motion to approve Williams/Ray – passed
- c. Doing Business in Ashford Guide – This was last updated in 2010 and now needs to be revised. A subcommittee of Ray, Margaret, and Williams was formed to do this.

8. Input from Public - None

9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

10. Adjournment - 9:30 PM

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair