

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017**

PRESENT: R. Fenn, M. Gantick, J. Rettenmeier, R. Ignatowicz, R. Williams

- 1. Call to Order – 8:00 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of March Minutes – Mike/Ray - passed**
- 4. Budget**
 - a. The financial report shows \$1,309 as the balance of funds remaining.
 - b. Discussed uses for the remaining funds. Priority is to identify source of grant funds. Williams will contact CERC to see if they can consult on the matter.
 - c. Budget approved: Ray F/John R – passed
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements -none
 - b. Presentations – CEDAS will be speaking at the next EDC meeting.
 - c. News from Other Commissions.
 - i. PZC formally heard a proposed revision of the Dollar General Special Permit at their 5/8/17 Public Hearing. This revised application was then approved in the PZC meeting.
 - ii. The draft of a new Fee Ordinance is still under review by the Town attorney.
 - d. ABA News
 - i. Car shows will resume again in May on the last Thursday of the month each month until September volunteers and raffle prizes needed. Will put the info on the OT-OF FB page
 - ii. ABA membership is now at 68
 - e. Correspondence and Meetings
 1. none
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. EDC Marketing and Communications
 - i. BOS Meeting will be scheduled this month. Williams will modify the PZC presentation and contact Christine.
 - ii. The Business Contact form is complete and being used by the Building Department. (Thanks Ray!) Williams will drop off copies to the Town Clerk.
 - b. Website Modifications (Chatey, Williams) -
 - i. MadComm prepared a detailed site map and page descriptions, and sent it to Margaret. Asked Margaret to tell them to proceed. Williams will contact MadComm to determine progress.

- c. Our Town-Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
 - i. Joint letter with PZC to all the board, commissions, and town organization is complete and are waiting for a meeting date from Christine.
 - ii. Arts Council Dinner Dance was a success and all of the tickets sold! Group is considering another event; maybe a play.
 - iii. Mike distributed a letter from the Northeastern University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering soliciting consulting work on community development. Mike will contact them and share the UConn study with them to see if there is any potential.
- d. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (also includes Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. Mike has been meeting with local business owners, taking pictures of their businesses, and creating a story post on the OT-OF FB page. Group voted to authorize limited (less than \$50) funds to boost these posts. Williams/John – passed
 - ii. Continue to seek tenants for old Sneakers space. Owner has offered it to the Arts Council for functions.
 - iii. No new actions on Drug Store (likely will wait for DG to open first).
 - iv. As stated in budget discussions, Williams will contact CEDAS/CERC to see if they can consult on finding grant funding.
- e. Wagon Shed Property
 - i. No activity.
- f. Update to Doing Business in Ashford Brochure and Contact Form (Ray F)
 - i. Ray completed both and sent out to group for comment. (Thanks Ray!!) Minor edits were made and the project is complete. Was sent to the Building Office for distribution. They have made copied and have them displayed in their brochure rack.
- g. Buy Local Initiative (Chatey/Williams)
 - i. No report

7. New Business

- a. New Member Recruitment-encouraged group to enlist prospects.

8. Input from Public - None

9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

10. Adjournment - 9:15 PM

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair