

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017**

PRESENT: R. Fenn, M. Gantick, J. Calarese, R. Ignatowicz, M. Chatey R. Williams
Courtney Hendricson (guest)

- 1. Call to Order – 7:45 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of March Minutes – John/Ray – passed; Margaret abstained**
- 4. Budget**
 - a. The financial report shows \$679 not spent.
 - b. Budget approved: Ray/Bob – passed; Margaret abstained
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements -none
 - b. Presentations – Courtney Hendricson, VP of Municipal Services, CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) and President of CT Economic Development Association (CEDAS) attended and participated in the EDC meeting. The majority of the meeting was dedicated to this topic.
 - i. Richard presented an overview of economic development in Ashford and the Special Planning Areas (SPA's) in particular with input from all of the EDC members present. Challenges and opportunities were discussed.
 - ii. Courtney gave an overview of the services and capabilities of here organizations. Their activities range grant writing to research to consulting to serving on town EDC's. They are a quasi-government funded organization with funding from state, federal, and private sources.
 - iii. The group asked if there were still opportunities for study grants in light of the current state budget issues. Courtney indicated there were still opportunities – block grants from previous years not yet allocated; federal funds; and some in current and future budgets. It is still difficult, but not impossible.
 - iv. Specific areas of opportunity are:
 1. Connectivity and transportation. Example would be to link West Ashford and Warrentville.
 2. Brownfields. Example would be the Wagon Shed SPA.
 3. Opportunities emanating from the Regional CT Councils of Governments like NECCOG for Ashford. She asked if Ashford was active in NECCOG and suggested that someone from the EDC might ask to be on the BOD. Action – Bring this topic up during the BOS EDC discussion on July 17th.
 4. Connecticut Innovations. Opportunities exist for entrepreneur incubator funding.

- v. Courtney will develop a more detailed list of opportunities and send it to Richard.
- c. News from Other Commissions.
 - i. None.
 - ii. The draft of a new Fee Ordinance is still under review by the Town attorney.
- d. ABA News
 - i. No report
- e. Correspondence and Meetings
 - 1. none
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. EDC Marketing and Communications
 - i. BOS Meeting is scheduled for 7/17/17 at 7:00 PM. Chatey will send the PZC presentation to Williams and he Williams will modify it for the BOS meeting.
 - b. Website Modifications (Chatey, Williams) -
 - i. The link to the prototype website developed by MadComm was sent to all of the members. Everyone will review the site and send comments to Williams
 - c. Our Town-Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
 - i. No report
 - d. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (also includes Branch Bank Solicitation Project (Chatey, Lawrence, Williams)
 - i. No report.
 - e. Wagon Shed Property
 - i. No activity.
 - f. Buy Local Initiative (Chatey/Williams)
 - i. No report
- 7. New Business**
 - a. It was suggested that the EDC use the OT-OF FB page to recruit new members. Williams will put together a post and publish it after the holiday.
- 8. Input from Public - None**
- 9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None**
- 10. Adjournment - 9:30 PM**

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair