

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 14, 2016**

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

- 1. Call to Order - 7:35 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates - None**
- 3. Approval of Minutes –** For October meeting since there was no November meeting - Motion Gary/Ray - Approved
- 4. Budget**
 - a. No expenditures
 - b. Motion to accept report – Ray/Gary; Approved
 - c. Motion to submit 2017 budget request as same as 2016 – Mike/ John R. 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. The PH was continued to 12/14/16 at 7:00 PM
 - 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 working on a draft.
 3. No meeting in December
 - c. ABA News
 - i. The current slate of officers will continue for another year.
 - ii. Holiday party last week was well attended (30 to 40 people)
 - iii. Planning for the 2017 Expo is underway with the date to be coordinated with a Library event. Several authors are being contacted to do a book signing. Likely date is in March 2017.
 - iv. A brain storming meeting is planned to discuss how the ABA can expand its role helping area businesses.
 - d. Correspondence and Meetings - None
 - e. Presentations - none

6. Old Business

- a. EDC Marketing and Communications
 - i. 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 and send it to Williams for comment. Group will go over it at the next meeting. Williams will contact the BOS to get on their agenda after the first of the year.

- b. Website Modifications (Williams, Chatey, Gantick) -
 - i. Williams and Margaret have been trading emails with MadComm on proposed themes for the new website.
 - ii. A site map has been prepared and sent to MadComm, as have other content materials
 - iii. Williams recommended that the activity go forward using a theme similar to that of the Woodstock, IL EDC. The group concurred.

- c. Our Town Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
 - i. Mike reviewed at plan and process document for the 2017 activities. This document will be reviewed with the BOS
 - ii. The OT-OF has agreed to meet monthly on third Tuesday and continues to consider new projects for 2017.
 - iii. The Art Council has moved out of OT-OF and is piggy backing on the Windham Arts 501 (c)(3) filing
 - iv. Next public OT-OF meeting will be in the Spring

- 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 again discussed. The EDC again has reached out NECCOG for help. 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. The EDC will discuss this when we meet with the BOS.
 - iii. Marketing the old Sneakers property to local restaurant groups was discussed. Several members contacted restaurant groups using the “sell sheets” prepared by Margaret. So far there are no hot prospects.

- e. Wagon Shed Property
 - i. The BOS met with DEEP on 10/19/16. Williams distributed a copy of Mike Zambo's memo to the group. Will discuss next steps when EDC meets with the BOS.
 - f. Buy Local Initiative - No activity
- 7. New Business**
- a. Recruitment of new EDC members
 - i. Efforts continue and group agreed this has to be a high priority.
 - b. Doing Business in Ashford Guide – This was last updated in 2010 and now needs to be revised. Ray and John C. will prepare the update
- 8. Input from Public - None**
- 9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None**
- 10. Adjournment – 8:55 PM**

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair