

**TOWN OF ASHFORD  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 28, 2018**

**PRESENT:** M. Gantick, R. Ignatowicz, R. Williams, T. Wakeman  
J. Rettenmeir, J. Calarese, G. Lawrence, R. Fenn, M. Fontaine

- 1. Call to Order – 7:35 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates – Fontaine for Chatey**
- 3. Approval of December Minutes – Mike/Bob – passed**
- 4. Budget**
  - a. Allocation of \$25 for FB boost when the new Pitch Products businesses are open is still pending – Gantick
  - b. Allocation of \$25 for FB post for OT-OF meeting - Fenn
  - c. General discussion of spending priorities for rest of the year – open for input from the group. Williams will discuss with CEDAS help on West Ashford study or maybe an inventory of Ashford Tourist sites.
  - d. Approval of report – Bob/ John R- passed
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
  - a. Announcements –none
  - b. Presentations – none
  - c. News from Other Commissions.
    - i. PZC – No meetings in December or January
      1. The Town attorney determined that the new Fee Ordinance does not require a special town meeting. PZC is waiting for the final text to post it. Will be discussed at the next meeting in March.
      2. A new Zoning Map is still being developed with NECCOG doing the graphics. NECCOG has yet to respond.
      3. NECCOG finally sent a Word version of the POCD to PZC. Williams will formally request a copy from Jeff Silver-Smith
    - ii. BOF
      1. Gail Zaicek is putting together a Town Annual Report. It is required annually by state statute. The EDC input is due by 3/29/18. Williams will put it together.
  - d. ABA News
    - i. The ABA continues to grow. Now at 75+members
    - ii. Business Expo planned for March 24th. There will be concomitant Library and compositing events similar to last year. EDC will have a table. Ray, Mike and Dick will man the table and gather materials. Bob will send copy of the business survey to John R. to have Anything Printed make copies. Mike will send John R a copy of the UConn study to have them also make 25 copies for the table. Each participant is being asked to provide an item for the raffle. Williams will get a gift certificate for the Wooden Spoon.
    - iii. Car shows will continue starting in May

- e. Correspondence and Meetings
  - i. Mike and Ray attended Regional POCD at NECCOG. The meeting was poorly attended with only Ashford, Putnam, and Killingly attending. Killingly has suffered a loss of jobs due to plant closings and is thinking of sponsoring a commercial driving school to help create jobs.
  - ii. Regional EDC meeting – Ray/Mike proposed that Ashford host a regional EDC meeting if we could get a significant number of towns to participate. Will discuss more at the next EDC meeting

## 6. Old Business

- a. EDC Marketing and Communications
  - i. Mike was contacted by a website called Nextdoor.com about Ashford sponsoring (for free) a page. Mike will send more info to the EDC.
  - ii. Group would like to order generic EDC business card. Williams showed them the card he made using Avery. Williams will design and print 10 cards for each member.
- b. Website Modifications (Chatey, Gantick, Williams) -
  - i. No activity. Need the materials from NECCOG on the POCD to update the site further.
- c. Our Town-Our Future (Fenn, Gantick).
  - i. Core group continues to meet and narrowed the projects to four.
    1. Communications – no activity
    2. Mt. Hope River Trail – group is working with Conservation Commission and Joshua Trust.
    3. Inventory of Historic Buildings and Places - Kick off meeting planned in May
    4. EDC Support and West Ashford Development – focus on RSA (see below).
  - ii. Terry Wakeman continues to work on a fifth project (either through OT-OF or the EDC). This project would develop maps and materials on all of the trails with Ashford, with the idea of making the town a hiking destination. A student at UConn is generating a trail map using their GIS resources. The end result will be input to a brochure similar to the Buy Local brochure.
- d. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (Ignatowicz, Lawrence, Williams)
  - i. Bob completed a package to solicit interest in building a drug store in West Ashford.
    1. This package was used to make a formal proposal to Walgreens. It was submitted 4 weeks ago and he has yet to hear back from them. He will try contacting the District Manager directly. He is also contacting a developer (SRS) that works with Walgreens.
    2. The Realtor representing the Hoffman property has lost the listing. Gary was to have contacted the owners. No update
    3. Ray will follow up with Mike Zambo about clearing the brush on the Moore property when and Spring finally comes!

- ii. Other business news
  - 1. Sneakers building is now for sale. The owner has asked to attend the next EDC meeting. Mike will make the contact.
  - 2. The Mainline Heating business is moving out of town effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. Sales office will be in Sturbridge but it not clear where the warehouse will be located. The realtor listing has changes. Williams will contact them to see if there are any prospects and if the EDC can help.
  - 3. A Pennsylvania company that repairs crumbling foundations is thinking of leasing the GT Lynch building. Gary will get their contact information.
- iii. Mike Gantick reviewed his activities on doing a Road Safety Audit (RSA) of RT 74/RT 44 corridor. The DOT is highly receptive to working with Ashford. Mike Zambo has indicated that he supports the effort. Tentative dates are 4/17 or 4/24.
- e. Wagon Shed Property
  - i. There was a Jan 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with the attorney to kick off the Phase One. No feedback yet from the BOS.
- f. Buy Local Initiative (Chatey/Williams)
  - i. Williams/Fenn will contact Margaret to determine the status

**7. New Business**

- a. none

**8. Input from Public – None**

**9. Member Input for Next Agenda - None**

**10. Adjournment - 9:05 PM**

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair