

**TOWN OF ASHFORD  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, Aug. 22, 2018**

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

1. **Call to Order** – 7:33 PM
2. **Seating of Alternates** – none
3. **Approval of May Minutes** – Mike/Bob – passed
4. **Budget**
  - a. No funds expended
5. **Communications and Announcements**
  - a. Announcements –
    - i. None.
  - b. Presentations – none
  - c. News from Other Commissions.
    - i. PZC
      1. Work is continuing on revising the residential lot size requirements and several other areas in the Land Use Regulations.
  - d. ABA News
    - i. Last two cruises have suffered because of rain
    - ii. Cruise Nights are continuing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month through September. August will feature a chicken barbeque.
  - e. Correspondence and Meetings
    - i. None
6. **Old Business**
  - a. EDC Marketing and Communications
    - i. Terry is working on a hiking in Ashford promotional materials. Will give status next meeting.
  - b. Website Modifications (Chatey, Gantick, Williams) -
    - i. Williams sent MadComm the 2015 POCD Word content and high-resolution artwork in June and is working on a document that maps where to replace the 2005 POCD sections with the new material from the 2015 POCD.
    - ii. The prototype website is operational on the MadComm server.
  - 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 –Work continues to construct the trail. The BOS have given their blessing to the project.

3. Inventory of Historic Buildings and Places - The Historical Society has continued its membership drive signing up a number of residents.
  4. EDC Support and West Ashford Development – focus on RSA (see below).
- 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. Bob resubmitted his formal proposal to Walgreens in April. He recently has identified new contacts within the organization and reached out to them. Walgreens responded and is now reviewing the materials submitted.
    2. The Realtor representing the Hoffman property has lost the listing. No update
    3. The Town crew “kind of” cleared the Moore property but more work needs to be done. Gary spoke with Mike Zambo about listing the property to get it back on the tax rolls.
  - ii. Other business news.
    1. Williams met with the new owner of the KSK market last month. They are in the process of turning the business into a deli and soup/sandwich shop. They are continuing the KSK operation in the left half of the space while remodeling the right half. The EDC offered to do a story about their grand opening in the OT-OF Facebook page. Expect the grand opening to be in September.
    2. The Coop store in the Pitch Products mall is closing. They were unable to generate enough foot traffic to generate sales. This is a problem with isolated retail stores in Ashford.
    3. The store occupied by the former Coop and the space adjacent to it are being turned into a medical practice operated by Misty Doering, APRN. This will be the second medical office in that location.
  - iii. Sneaker Property
    1. The owners of the property, Mark and Sandy Pensa, had agreed to clean out the interior to make it more marketable. There is no activity to date and the inside still looks like a demo in progress. Mike will again check in with owners.
  - iv. The DOT Road Safety Audit (RSA) of RT 74/RT 44 corridor is was held on 4/24/18. Mike Gantick led the effort for the EDC and is presently working on the report with input from UConn and DOT. Anticipate finishing it next month.
- e. Wagon Shed Property
- i. Town has contracted with an engineering firm to do the Phase 1 study.

- f. Buy Local Initiative (Fenn/Williams)
  - i. There have been no materials transmitted from Margaret. Group agreed to start from scratch using a paper copy of the old brochure as a starting point. Williams will check with Anything Printed to see if they have the original. If they do not, Williams will scan to brochure and send to Ray for the updates.

**New Business**

- 1. Mike mentioned the idea of having a regional EDC meeting. This was discussed at an NECCOG meeting several months back. He will contact John Filchak to see if there is interest.

**7. Input from Public – None**

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

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

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair