

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
5 TOWN HALL RD ASHFORD, CT 06278
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 24, 2018**

PRESENT: R. Ignatowicz, R. Williams, J. Rettenmeier; J. Calarese;
M. Fontaine, M. Gantick

1. **Call to Order** – 7:33 PM
2. **Seating of Alternates** – M. Fontaine for G. Lawrence
3. **Approval of Aug. 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 car cruise in Sept. was largest ever with over 90 cars.
 - ii. Planning has started on the next business expo. Likely to be in April with a location TBD
 - e. Correspondence and Meetings
 - i. Mike G. spoke with NECCOG about them hosting a regional EDC meeting. John Filchak is interested but did not indicate when or where this might happen.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. EDC Marketing and Communications
 - i. Terry is working on a Hiking in Ashford promotional materials. No status update since Terry was not present.
 - 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 follow activities on projects.
 1. Communications – no activity

2. Mt. Hope River Trail –Work continues to construct the trail. The BOS have given their blessing to the project and responsibility transferred to Conservation Commission.
 3. Inventory of Historic Buildings and Places - The Historical Society has continued its membership drive signing up a number of residents. Currently has a fund-raising effort to do work on the interior of the Tremko House.
 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 again last month. Walgreens responded and is now reviewing the materials submitted. He recently has identified a site developer that works with Walgreens, JLL Properties. He has sent them the info package.
 2. 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. The new Deli in the Post Office building opened in February. Mike did a FB posting on the OT-OF page. The post received quite of few views (over 2,000) and many positive comments.
 2. The antique dealer is taking the other half of the old KSK space to expand his operations. So, the building will be “full” but still appear half empty because he has no signage.
 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. This is expected to open in the next month or so.
 4. The owner of the vacant Mainline building contacted Williams concerning help in getting Eversource to expend the 440-volt 3 phase power from Rt 190 to the building. Williams will contact Mike Zambo for help.
 - 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 still 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 completed the draft report with input from UConn and DOT. The report documents a number of safety issues in the area. Mike plans to seek having DOT do a traffic safety study.

- e. Wagon Shed Property
 - i. Town contracted with an engineering firm to do Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies. A draft of the Phase 1 study is complete.
 - ii. A meeting will be held 11/13/18 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall. Williams and Bob will represent the EDC.

- f. Buy Local Initiative (Fenn/Williams)
 - i. There have been no materials transmitted from Margaret. Williams scanned in the old brochure and sent it to Ray. No status update because Ray was not at meeting.

New Business

- 1. Update on EDC Presentation – group discussed possible changes. Members will send input to Williams who will then produce a draft.
- 2. Approval of 2019 meeting schedule – Motion Williams/Mike, passed. Williams will send to Sheri Mutch.

7. Input from Public – None

8. Member Input for Next Agenda - None

9. Adjournment - 9:10 PM

Prepared by R. S. Williams, Chair