

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012
6:30 P.M., UPSTAIRS FOYER**

MINUTES

Page 1 of 4

Note: These are summary minutes. A tape recording of this meeting is on file in the Commission Secretary's Office in the Wolcott Town Hall.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chairman Chris O'Brien called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Mulhall, William Evans, Edwin Rodriguez, Chris O'Brien, Steve Bosco arrived at 6:37 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robyn Mazas, Adam Hadir

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon **MOTION** by Edwin Rodriguez, seconded by William Evans, it was unanimously voted to **APPROVE** the minutes of the February 6, 2012 Organizational and Regular Meeting.

Terry Mulhall abstained due to absence.

Steve Bosco arrived at 6:37 p.m.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no Correspondences at this time.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS

There were no Public Requests at this time.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Sub-Committee reports at this time.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012
6:30 P.M., UPSTAIRS FOYER**

MINUTES

Page 2 of 4

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. WhyWolcott.org Website

Chris O'Brien said that last month there was a lot of discussion on this and asked everyone to take a look at it and come up with some ideas as to what can be put on the website. Edwin Rodriguez said he did research on this and sat with Candace Barth, Library Director, but she did not recall who updated their website but it was very expensive. He said it could have been expensive because of the linkage allowing them access to other libraries to see what books they had available. He also came across a Wolcott directory on the website but it is not updated and if this is already being done then why spend resources to do it over again. Chris O'Brien said the survey was an on-line survey done through Survey Monkey and we received 80 something responses to the index cards sent to all the town businesses. There was a brief discussion regarding the information that is currently on the website that is not correct or under construction that does not look good (for this commission). Steve Bosco said you need to decide what the purpose of your website is, why should I move my business to Wolcott, what is the website going to tell me to entice me to come to Wolcott, etc. He said maybe we should talk to the Chamber (of Commerce) and work with them so the website will list all of the businesses, what types of businesses, etc. He also said we do not have what other towns have such as special economic districts, special tax abatements, etc. He said until we can do what other towns can, that have a full economic agency and director, where they actual coordinate with all the departments we will have to look at it differently and maybe highlight businesses in town and promote them. Chris O'Brien said that is an excellent idea as we do have some very good restaurants, country music and line dancing, manufacturing and other unique businesses. He said he had a conversation with Carl Rosa from Waterbury who said you need to highlight what is surrounding us, i.e. transportation, airports in the area, nightlife (in surrounding towns), etc. There was more discussion as to how to go about getting the information on businesses and how to classify it and it was suggested to collaborate with the Chamber as they would have a lot of information based on their membership and then the rest we can go out and try to promote, which will benefit both of us. There was a brief discussion as to how to put business names on the website and then linking them to additional information, if they provide such information, and categorizing the businesses. Chris O'Brien said we need to revamp the website and get it up and running. Edwin Rodriguez said we need a web page and it needs to be more visual. Chris O'Brien said the intentions where to expand on the Town of Wolcott's website and advertise the proximity to highways, the industrial park, etc.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012
6:30 P.M., UPSTAIRS FOYER**

MINUTES

Page 3 of 4

Steve Bosco said there is no industrial park in town it is just industrial zoned in the Nutmeg Valley Rd. area. He also said the area is not really developable because of the flood plain zone. Edwin Rodriguez said he would talk to Dave Wilson to see what can be done to improve the Commission's website and possibly incorporate it with the town's website. It was stated that he needed to talk to Mary (Morrone) first to get approval to discuss the website with Dave Wilson. Edwin Rodriguez said we can go to the Secretary of the State and the Chamber of Commerce and get a list (of businesses) and compile all the information from there for the directory.

2. Discussion on ways to retain and promote business

This was discussed above under WhyWolcott.org website. Steve Bosco said it comes down to having a discussion with the Mayor to have a coordinated effort with all departments in processing permits in an orderly fashion. Chris O'Brien asked about inviting someone from D.E.C.D. to come in for the next meeting and Edwin Rodriguez said they will not come here for just this Commission, they need an audience. Steve Bosco suggested inviting the President of the Chamber of Commerce to our meeting to discuss a collaboration regarding the information we were talking about and also bringing the State Economic Development to do a presentation. Chris O'Brien said he will talk to the Chamber of Commerce President.

At this time Chris O'Brien said that Representative Rob Sampson is starting a business advisory group and is looking for 10 people to work with him if we had any suggestions.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment to Council of Governments – Naugatuck Valley

Chris O'Brien said that Planning and Zoning has one member on this commission and we need to appoint one from Economic Development. Steve Bosco volunteered to represent Wolcott at C.O.G.N.V.

2. Discussion and possible action to set time of meeting.

A **MOTION** was offered by Steve Bosco, seconded by Edwin Rodriguez to reconsider the time of our meetings. A brief discussion followed with the following outcome:

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012
6:30 P.M., UPSTAIRS FOYER**

MINUTES

Page 4 of 4

Upon **MOTION** by Steve Bosco, seconded by Edwin Rodriguez, it was unanimously voted to **RESCHEDULE** the time of our meetings to **7:00 p.m.** on the first Monday of the month (in the upstairs foyer) at the town hall.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

At this time Edwin Rodriguez asked that on behalf of this Commission we thank Mark Monterosso (past Chairman) for his help in forwarded the information he had pertaining to the website. Chris O'Brien said that Mark Monterosso had great information and always participated in whatever he could.

It was stated that Old Business items will stay on the agenda and New Business items have been completed and can be taken off.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Upon **MOTION** by Edwin Rodriguez, seconded by William Evans, it was unanimously voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chris O'Brien, Chairman
Economic Development Commission

Edna Henderson, Recording Secretary
Economic Development Commission