

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014
6:30 P.M., UPSTAIRS FOYER**

MINUTES

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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

Chairperson Mary Kelly called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robyn Mazas, Dave Grant, Sean Hughes, Richard Mansfield, Mary Kelly

MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Mulhall, Greg Dandio

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon **MOTION** by Sean Hughes, seconded by Richard Mansfield, it was unanimously voted to **APPROVE** the minutes of the 11/3/2014 Regular Meeting

III. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no Correspondences at this time.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS

There were no Public Requests at this time.

V. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Small Business Development

Sean Hughes did not have anything new to report at this time.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. On-Line Business Directory and Print Version

Mary Kelly said the article did go in the paper and there has been a lot of positive on this. Dave Grant said he had around 5 businesses subscribe to the directory so far. Mary Kelly said an article will also be in the Wolcott Community News.

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2. Discussion on Property next to Golf Course

Mary Kelly suggested we table this at this time and Sean Hughes moved the motion to table.

3. Discussion on a Wolcott Informational Packet

Mary Kelly introduced Pat Gallagher from Council of Governments – Central Naugatuck Valley. She said we have discussed putting out a brochure about our town and thought it would be best to do it professionally and after attending a meeting in Waterbury she was very impressed with the informational brochures they handed out so she contacted Mr. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher said come January 1, 2015 they will be reorganizing and adding more towns to their organization. He said their primary role is in transportation planning but economic development is one of the many hats they wear. He said every year they compile data from census from various state agencies for towns to use as needed to compare their data to surrounding towns. There was a brief discussion as to what should be put in our informational packet and it was suggested to keep in short and highlight the best things in the town. It was stated that people would be interested to know about the economic data, town offices, schools, recreation, highway access, etc. Mary Kelly passed around a report from Conn. Economic Resource Center that compiles all kinds of stats for individual towns into a two page report. There was discussion regarding the packet including short summaries on a variety of topics, (population, trends, job market, employment, etc.) Again it was stated to talk about life in Wolcott, organizations, town government, schools, transportation/close to highway, etc. There was discussion as to Wolcott being off the beaten path and what can we put in vacant land areas or vacant buildings. Mr. Gallagher said that you do a market assessment of sort, stating that within 20 miles of Wolcott there is this many people, household incomes, average cost of homes. Mr. Gallagher said that anything that falls within their line of work, such as number crunching, data gathering they would not charge us for but anything after that there would be an hourly rate. There was discussion again as to bringing in the Chamber of Commerce and working together as it would benefit both parties. Mr. Gallagher said there is a lot of data and tables they have available for us to work with and this commission would put together the summaries on what they want profiled in the packet. Richard Mansfield said to get old information from the Chamber of Commerce and check the website and update from there. Dave Grant said that he believes the Chamber wants to do a brochure so they would want to be involved in this and that Roger Picard probably has many pictures we could go through to see what we would like to see in the brochure.

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Richard Mansfield said you are really not going to get large businesses to come to Wolcott but we are more geared towards individuals and what we can offer them. Sean Hughes said it really pertains to whether or not it is cost effective to do business in Connecticut, whether it be Waterbury, Wolcott, etc. He said we really have to keep the brochure concise and to the point and partnering with the Chamber of Commerce would allow us to do this a little more with the brochure. Richard Mansfield so we have a lot as a small community to offer to take people out of the big city, such as the school system, lower housing cost, and that's what you sell to get people here. Sean Hughes will be in charge of working on this project, along with Dave Grant and Robyn Mazas. Mary Kelly will get in touch with Dan Migliario from Chamber of Commerce to let him know what was discussed tonight.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mary Kelly stated that the old Lily Lake Inn is re-opening and Cumberland Farms on Meriden Rd. is looking at expanding. There was a brief discussion regarding the budget for the next fiscal year and it was stated that there was the hosting fee of \$100.00 per year for the why Wolcott website. Mary Kelly said she would look into the cost for the video for the informational packet. Robyn Mazas said we should have something in the budget for advertising. There was discussion again regarding partnering with the Chamber which can offset some of our costs.

VIII. UPDATE ON WOLCOTT BUSINESSES AND POTENTIAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

IX. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Mary Kelly said to leave the agenda as is.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Upon **MOTION** by Sean Hughes, seconded by Richard Mansfield, it was unanimously voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mary M. Kelly, Chairperson
Economic Development Commission

Edna Henderson, Recording Secretary
Economic Development Commission