

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**11 RYE STREET, P.O. Box 389
BROAD BROOK, CT 06016**

Website: <http://www.eastwindsorct.com>

Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 29, 2013

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Members Present: Eric Moffett, Josh Kapelner and James Richards

Also in Attendance: Laurie Whitten, Town Planner

Chairman Eric Moffett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall meeting room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 15, 2013 meeting as written.
Richards / Moffett / Unanimous

In favor: Richards; Moffett

Abstain: Kapelner

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Economic Development Issues**

New England Economic Development Course: Ms. Whitten distributed copies of a "Summary of New England Economic Development Course – Connecticut Offering" that she had attended. She said it was an excellent course with a lot of good information. In her summary she wrote down the key points that were relevant and interesting. Ms. Whitten briefly went over the summary. She said there were some good ideas as to what to put on the web site such as county and regional data, workforce shed map, utilities maps. Ms. Whitten noted that another topic covered was ethics. She said the EDC should have an ethics policy. Other topics were creating jobs and workforce. She pointed out that 70% to 80% of all new jobs come from existing companies. Also 10% to 20% of venture capitals are

actually successful. Ms. Whitten noted that associates and technical degrees are becoming more important. She suggested inviting teachers to visit the local manufacturing companies to find out what skills these students need. Mr. Kapelner felt that the best time to do that is at the community college level. Another topic noted in the summary was retention and expansion. Ms. Whitten pointed out that they need to key in on the businesses we have in town and to try to work with them to enhance their business. She said “meet and greets” are great to do as well as awards programs. She indicated that the CT Studios are coming to South Windsor and we need to tap into that. Also noted was the need for clear span buildings with 32 foot clear ceilings with no obstructions. Mr. Kapelner asked if that would be a zoning problem. Ms. Whitten said it wouldn’t be a problem in the industrial zones. She said most of the buildings are higher but a lot of the old buildings don’t have the clear span. They might need to tear them down and rebuild. Ms. Whitten said there is a CD of the class if anyone wanted to listen to it.

Wedding Center: Ms. Whitten brought up the fact that in East Windsor we have banquet facilities, hotels, wedding gown stores and people that make wedding cakes. She suggested that we can be the mediator to have the different individuals get together to try to market themselves – to have East Windsor considered as a “wedding center.” This was discussed briefly by the EDC members. Mr. Richards said he would share this with the Chamber.

Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD): Ms. Whitten indicated that we need to come up with new goals for the POCD. We need to decide what percentage done we are from the previous POCD. Do we need to continue with what wasn’t finished? Mr. Moffett said whatever we didn’t accomplish would be the new goals. Mr. Richards noted that we have EDC on the town website. That goal has been completed. Ms. Whitten noted that the State wants to see our goals in detail. She said if we don’t have our goals written on the POCD and money becomes available, we don’t get the money because it is not our goal. Mr. Richards said our goals haven’t really changed. Ms. Whitten said she wants to get as much input as she can.

MOTION: That we form a sub-committee to provide the information required to the Town Planner regarding EDC’s direction for the Plan of Conservation and Development. Richards / Kapelner / Unanimous

Mr. Richards said he would volunteer to be chairman of the sub-committee.

Other Economic Development Issues:

Mr. Whitten indicated that the Dollar General got approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission last night (5/28/13). She said they hope to be in there by Thanksgiving.

Mr. Richards said he heard that Walmart will be open this August. Ms. Whitten noted that there is a lot of interest in the properties near there.

Mr. Richards also noted that this year’s business person of the year is Jim Nilsson.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn.

Richards / Kapelner / Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer
Recording Secretary