

Town of East Windsor Economic Development Commission

11 Rye Street, P.O. Box 389

Broad Brook, CT 06016

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

Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 17, 2014

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Members Present: Eric Moffett, Josh Kapelner, Maria Rumore and
Andy Hoffman

Also in Attendance: Laurie Whitten, Town Planner

Chairman Eric Moffett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the East Windsor 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 January 27, 2014, as written.
Kapelner / Rumore / Unanimous

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Business Assistance Forum (BAF) / Meet & Greet

Ms. Whitten noted that the same people attend this every year. Mr. Moffett said with Andy Hoffman's efforts to get us a new list of businesses, we will be able to reach more people. He felt they should give the Meet & Greet at least one more shot. The EDC members

briefly discussed whether to change the time of year that they have the event. Mr. Hoffman suggested that the fall might be a good time to have it. Ms. Whitten suggested the last Thursday in September (September 25, 2014). They also discussed whether to continue having the Business Assistance Forum. Mr. Hoffman said that he would be meeting with the Assistant Town Manager in Enfield and he will ask how they are able to assist small businesses.

MOTION: That we have a Meet & Greet with businesses in town on September 25, 2014. Hoffman / Kapelner

In Favor: Hoffman; Kapelner; Rumore

Abstain: Moffett

Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD):

Ms. Whitten explained that because we are doing some major updates of the Zoning Regulations, we are not going to have a POCD workshop this month. She said we are hiring a consultant to do a housing workshop. They are looking at a workshop at the end of May, possibly May 27th. The consultants, LADA Architects, will be discussing transit oriented housing, village district zoning and high density housing.

Ms. Whitten noted that so far they have done POCD workshops with the Conservation and Agricultural Commissions, W.P.C.A, Park and Rec. and EDC.

Mr. Hoffman noted that in his recent meeting with a local restaurant, it was expressed that if you continue to populate the town with lower income people the high-end restaurants will close. Mr. Kapelner said the town should be trying to raise the bar rather than lowering it. He said if we want to help businesses in town we need to have higher priced properties. Ms. Whitten felt that the majority of the properties are higher prices.

Economic Development Issues:

Mr. Hoffman indicated that he had visited four local businesses and

distributed status reports for each business visit. The businesses were Southern Auto, King Koil, R & R Tool & Die and LaNotte Restaurant. He said the meetings all went well. He said the four companies thought East Windsor is a good place to do business. Two of the four companies said the town was not business friendly. The EDC members discussed what questions to ask the businesses. It was suggested asking them whether they are satisfied with the local labor force and if not what can we do to find the training that we need.

The Commission members briefly discussed getting a professional economic development official in town. Mr. Moffett noted that the data base that Mr. Hoffman is working on will allow them to get information to go towards getting a full-time economic development person.

Ms. Whitten reported that R & R Tool & Die recently got approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission for an addition to their building. Also, Sofia's Plaza received approval for solar panels on their roof and on the ground. That is part of a State program promoting solar energy.

CERC Listings:

No new updates to report.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
Kapelner / Hoffman / Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer, Recording Secretary