

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Minutes for Monday, March 8, 2016 Regular Meeting
Windham Town Hall, 1st floor Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

Voting Members Present: Bill Hettinger, Pam DeVivo, Robert Horrocks, John McCommas, Victor Funderburk (arr. 7:11pm) **Voting Members Absent:** None **Voting Members Excused:** None **Guests Present:** Ronald Lowry, ECSU; Alex Paul Gilson; Demetrio Ricciardone, Savings Institute **Staff Present:** James V. Bellano, Windham Town Director of Economic Development; Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** None

I. **Call to Order – Chair Hettinger called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.**

II. **Citizens & Delegations Community Comments/Questions –** None. J. McCommas MOVED to move the Guest Speaker up in the agenda. P. DeVivo SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

III. **Guest Speaker: Dr. Ronald Lowry & Dr. Alex Paul Gilson, ECSU**

Discussion about student trends at ECSU regarding business degrees and entrepreneurship. [V. Funderburk arr.] Discussion on methods of engaging students in business development in the community. Discussion about bringing the commission up to ECSU in the fall to meet with the Entrepreneur Club.

IV. **Review of Minutes –** R. Horrocks MOVED to approve the minutes from February 9, 2016, P. DeVivo SECONDED. Change the meeting day to Tuesday. Pam DeVivo seconded the minutes from that meeting. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

V. **Old Business**

A) **Review of CEDS SWOT meeting**

Commission members offered feedback on the meeting.

B) **Arts groups coordination**

J. Bellano reported that the DECD will be coming to the Windham Club on March 16 to show businesses what the State is doing to support businesses in the state.

VI. **Economic Development Director's Report**

J. Bellano reported that My Windham Project is looking for money and support for this year. P. DeVivo MOVES to give the My Windham Project \$500 from the commission budget. R. Horrocks SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously. Discussion about enterprise zone tax incentives. This item will go on a future agenda for discussion and eventual presentation to the Town Council. The council would like to see a map of the current zone.

VII. **Chairman's Report**

None.

VIII. **Other reports/correspondence/announcements**

V. Funderburk shared a list of events in the Willimantic Arts & Eats District.

IX. **Citizens & Delegations Comments/Questions**

D. Riccardino voiced his interest in collaboration with the two professors from ECSU who visited today.

X. **Adjourn 9:21pm**

Respectfully submitted by D. Noll, Clerk

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Patricia P. Sprague
WINDHAM TOWN CLERK