

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Minutes for Tuesday, February 9, 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 [Arr. 7:12pm], Victor Funderburk (arr. 7:19pm) **Voting Members Absent:** None **Voting Members Excused:** None **Guests Present:** David Mieczynski, National Realty Advisors; 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.

III. Review of Minutes – R. Horrocks MOVED to approve the minutes from January 4, 2016,. P. DeVivo SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

IV. Guest Speaker: David Mieczynski, National Realty Advisors

Mr. Mieczynski spoke on the current state of commercial real estate and on his impression of Windham as a town in which to do business. [J. McCommas arr.]. Discussion about the need for more flex space in town and very large industrial space. [V. Funderburk arr.]. Discussion about where there is space open in town, and what the obstacles are for entrepreneurs coming to Windham.

V. New Business—Discussion of EDC Priorities for 2016

Branding and positive press. Discussion about connecting with groups with issues like landlords. Connect with ECSU business professors. Connect with ECSU young entrepreneurs. Attract artists and create arts colony. Infrastructure and see what we can make happen.

VI. Old Business

A) Dates/Location for CEDS SWOT meeting

2/29, 5-7:30 at ECSU. Registration required.

B) Entrepreneur development training

Discussion about organizations that are spearheading or might spearhead this kind of training or possibly a symposium. Discussion about what a symposium might look like. Chair Hettinger and R. Horrocks will create an outline before contacting local schools regarding moving forward.

VII. Economic Development Director's Report

J. Bellano noted there has been a lot of interest recently in small businesses, coffee shops, restaurants on Main Street. The Hurley Building is waiting on grant money through OPM. On Mae Flexer's request, N. Beets and J. Bellano wrote a letter regarding the need for the parking garage for her to bring to the legislative session.

VIII. Chairman's Report

The Rail Trail needs better signage now.

IX. Other reports/correspondence/announcements

V. Funderburk noted there is no clear signage regarding parking in the Jillson parking area. J. Bellano will pass this suggestion on to the Parking Committee

X. Citizens & Delegations Comments/Questions

D. Ricciardone voiced support for reaching out to the ECSU business professors and work on a symposium as well as reaching out to the landlord association.

XI. Adjourn 9:31pm

Respectfully submitted by D. Noll, Clerk