

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Minutes for Monday, April 6, 2015 Meeting
Windham Town Hall, 1st floor Conference Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

Voting Members Present: Bill Hettinger, Victor Funderburk (Arrived 7:32 PM), Robert Horrocks, John McCommas. **Absent:** Pam DeVivo, Ryan Jacobs **Voting Members Excused:** None **Guests:** Demetrio Ricciardone, Savings Institute **Staff Present:** James V. Bellano, Windham Town Director of Economic Development; James Finger, Windham Town Planner; Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** Mr. Ricciardone of the Savings Institute Bank & Trust's

- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Hettinger called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.
- II. **Citizens & Delegations Comments/Questions** – None.
- III. **Review of Minutes** – None.
- IV. **Guest Speaker** – Mr. Ricciardone spoke about the Savings Institute Bank & Trust's commitment to helping businesses grow in the community.
- V. **Introduction of Windham Economic Development Director** – James Bellano introduced.
 1. **Discussion of the Economic Development Commission Goals & Ideas** – Mr. Hettinger presented 8 key goals to Mr. Bellano: correcting problem policies, address parking, promote the Arts District, seek economic development grants, focus on Thread City Development and the Downtown Business Council, retain businesses in town, market the community, and partner with nearby universities for new business incubation. (Victor Funderburk arrived at 7:32 PM).

VI. Business Signage Program

1. **Public Works Comments/Changes** – Feedback from Assistant Superintendent of Town of Windham Public Works includes a change in how signs are funded, eliminating “such as under the street name signs” from the letter to businesses, a correction in published dimensions, increase in cost, removal of the specification on size of text, and a removal of guidelines restricting signs to two per pole. Commissioner John McCommas made a MOTION to accept and implement the changes recommended by Public Works. Commissioner Victor Funderburk SECONDED the motion, and all voted in favor. MOTION PASSED unanimously.
2. **Discussion and Possible Action – Expansion of Business Signage Program to other Parts of Town** – Commissioner Victor Funderburk made a MOTION to expand the signage program to include all commercial property throughout the town. Commissioner John McCommas SECONDED the motion, and all voted in favor. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

VII. Old Business

1. **Business Calling Program** – Mr. McCommas reported on the barber shop on North Street. Funderburk reported on Not Only Juice and Jamaican Me Crazy. Discussion about better signage for businesses on Riverside Drive. Hettinger noted that CliCK is open.
2. **Status of RFP on 804 Min Street (former Tin Tsin lot)** – Mr. Finger reported that there has been one request for an RFP.
3. **Downtown Arts & Eats District** – Mr. Funderburk reported on the current community theater show, Patsy Cline, and also on “The My Windham Project”, a collaborative project of artists throughout the community with indoor and outdoor art on Thursday/Friday/Saturdays between April 25 and June 6 and a \$1000 grant. Discussion about unified publicity for events in town.

VIII. Chairman’s Report – James Finger presented information on the application for a Family Dollar Store at the old Uncle Ken's site on Main Street across from Recreation Park. Concern about access to eventual back lot development. Commissioner Victor Funderburk made a MOTION to encourage the pursuit of this project because it would be good for the neighborhood and encourage the economic development of the neighborhood if properly completed. Commissioner Robert Horrocks SEONDED the motion, and all voted in favor. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

IX. Other Reports/Correspondence/Announcements – Mr. Finger presented an illustrated city information guide he found in the archive.

X. Citizens & Delegations Comments/Questions – None.

XI. Adjourn – Mr. McCommas MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Horrocks SEONDED. Chair Hettinger adjourned the meeting at 9:27PM

Respectfully submitted by D. Noll, Clerk.