

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Minutes for Monday, August 3, 2015 Meeting
Windham Town Hall, 1st floor Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

Voting Members Present: Bill Hettinger, Pam DeVivo, Robert Horrocks, Victor Funderburk (arr. 7:17), John McCommas **Voting Members Absent:** Ryan Jacobs **Voting Members Excused:** None. **Guests Present:** Demetrio Ricciardone, Savings Institute **Staff Present:** James V. Bellano, Windham Town Director of Economic Development; Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** Joe Marsalisi

- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Hettinger called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.
- II. **Citizens & Delegations Community Comments/Questions** – J. Marsalisi spoke about the future of the Tin Tsin lot. J. McCommas MOVED to move the acceptance of the minutes after the Chairman’s report. P. DeVivo SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously. (Funderburk arr).
- III. **Economic Development Director’s Report** – J. Bellano updated the group on the progress of the Dollar Store development on lower Main Street. Discussion about adding a “Food ahead” sign on the highway for That Breakfast Place and possibly one of the local signs from the signage program for Bliss. Update on progress on parking garage. Report on business growth in town. Discussion about local business expansion and retention. Discussion about public transportation links from our town to other regions.

IV. New Business

1. Letter of Support - My Windham Arts projects

B. Hettinger read aloud a draft letter of support from the Economic Development Commission for the My Windham arts project 2017. J. McCommas MOVED to approve the letter of support. P. DeVivo SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

V. Old Business

1. My Windham Projects

V. Funderburk recommends we apply for another My Windham Project grant. The meetings will be starting up again in September.

2. Arts & Eats

Discussion about big arts events in town and improving pre- and post-event publicity. Emphasis on a plan for follow-up media for successful events.

3. Downtown Parking Ideas

Discussion about the presentations on the parking garage on the 6/15/2015 meeting. Discussion about increasing allowed parking time in downtown, making parking rules clearer to people parking in downtown. B. Hettinger and J. Bellano will begin working on this with Town Council.

VI. Suggestions for future guest speakers

Southeast CT Enterprise Region (SECTR).

Diane Nadeau, Chamber of Commerce

VII. Chairman’s Report

B. Hettinger reported that the Council has not yet referred the Tin Tsin lot to this commission.

VIII. Minutes

J. McCommas MOVED to pass the 6/1/2015 minutes. P. DeVivo SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

P. DeVivo MOVED to accept the meeting from the 6/15/2015 meeting. V. Funderburk SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED with J. McCommas abstaining.

IX. Other reports/correspondence/announcements

V. Funderburk noted that the arts district activity seems to shut down in the summer. People are heading out of town for entertainment in the summer. Discussion about installing a bandshell and fencing on Jillson.

X. Citizens & delegations comments/questions

None.

XI. **Adjourn** P. DeVivo MOVED to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by R. Horrocks. Chair Hettinger adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by D. Noll, Clerk.