

KILLINGLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Killingly Town Hall
Conference Room 102
172 Main Street
Killingly, CT



Rand Joly, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

1. Roll Call:

Members Present: Rand Joly, Kevin Cole, Todd Cooke and Steven Gilbert (5:03). Dale Desmarais, Bill Cheng and Mark Tillinghast were absent with notification.

Rand appointed Todd Cooke and Steven Gilbert as voting members.

Richard Murray thanked the Commission for increasing the partnership with the board. He enjoyed working with all the Commission members as Board of Education liaison. Hoween Flexer is the new Board of Education Liaison.

Others Present: Joyce Ricci, Town Council Liaison; John Hallbergh, Lynn LaBerge, Town Councilors; Keith Thurlow, P & Z Chairman; Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director of Planning & Development; Richard Murray, Board of Education; Hoween Flexer, Board of Education Liaison; Elsie Bisset, Economic Development Director and Judy LaRoche, Recording Secretary.

2. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2015 was made by Steven Gilbert. It was **SECONDED** by Todd Cooke. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

3. Correspondence – Documents in packet from Interstate Reliability Project, Chamber of Commerce and CT Main Street Center.

4. Citizen's Participation – Downtown Property Owner, Jim Rivers wanted EDC to know that he's still working on bringing Community Health Resources to his building on Main Street from Commerce Avenue. He will be reapplying in the next few months for a text amendment to Planning & Zoning. The biggest misconception is that it will be a methadone clinic. He showed architectural plans of how the meeting rooms would be set up. CHR has 300 clients and will be putting over \$100,000 in renovations into the space. Richard Murray said that he's familiar with their work and they're very helpful. Rand asked what the negatives are. The main problem is perception. We need to be vigilant and enhance the law enforcement. When he makes application again, he'll bring us more information. He'll show us the text. Rand suggested putting him on the agenda in the future, when he's ready.

5. Unfinished Business

a) Economic Development Trust Fund – The beginning balance of the Trust Fund as of December 1, 2015 was \$270,700.95. The interest for December was \$103.46. The balance as of December 31, 2015 is \$270,804.41.

b) Update of Projects

- KHS Career Fair will be April 13th and they will need businesses to participate.
- The Annual Chamber meeting will be January 22nd at the Mansion on Bald Hill in Woodstock.
- The Last Green Valley is celebrating national recreation water trail network. We're proud to have the Lafreniere Canoe Launch and River Trail on the Quinebaug River.
- Killingly Business Association Coordinator, Brenda Duchesneau, retired December 31st. The KBA is in transition right now. Town cut their budget contribution to KBA from \$14,000 to \$7,500. There won't be enough funds for KBA to hire another Coordinator so Elsie and Judy will be helping out. Some of the newer, younger members have met with KBA officers and they want to get involved and help KBA grow. They don't advertise the traditional ways; they use more of social media.
- Elsie announced that Killingly has been accepted as a member to the CT Main Street Center, that is the expert about downtowns in CT. It's a Public-Private partnership with Eversource. Elsie gave an overview

of the process. Being a member makes us eligible for different grants and when they do their research, we have a chance to get unbiased feedback.

- Elsie introduced Ann-Marie Aubrey as the new Director of Planning and Development. Ann-Marie mentioned being familiar with Main Street organizations when she was in RI. They look at what you want, what you need and what they think you need.

- c) Economic Development Promotional Signage – The chamber wanted to erect a 30 foot sign and only a 20 foot sign is allowed. EDC originally asked for 4 economic development promotional signs and only two are allowed per the zoning regulations. The digital message sign and the Laurel House/Comfort Inn signs are the ones we already have. Ann-Marie said maybe we should look into tying the State signs into the Town. Kevin Cole said it costs \$1500 for a sign and there is a lot of criteria to fulfill. Kevin, Elsie and Ann-Marie will research it. Rand said he doesn't think it's up to EDC to apply for a text change. Discussion may continue.

6. New Business

- a) Open Space – Keith Thurlow mentioned that 79 Commerce Avenue, which fronts on the Five Mile River may be available to purchase or lease for minimal expense for passive recreation. Keith thinks it would be a great impetus to do more things in that area of town. Rand asked about the bandstand and how much does it get used? Rand thinks to spend money to purchase something like we already have doesn't make sense. Keith thinks that the amphitheater is in the wrong place. There are people on the open space committee. Hoween said a lot of work is being done down near Water Street. The butterfly plants and gardens are good and it should be looked into. Having access to the water would be a plus. Elsie mentioned that there is an area to put in a canoe by the footbridge and we also have the River Trail on the Quinebaug River, which also has a canoe launch. Ann-Marie suggested it be put on the agenda when the CT Main Street Center comes in the spring. Do more research and let the experts give their input. We need to find out what the 'minimal' expense will be. She's meeting with open space in the future, but, thinks it probably doesn't qualify for open space that they would purchase.

7. Liaison Reports

- Richard reiterated his thanks to the Commission
- Hoween Flexer, the new Liaison from the Board of Education, thanked Richard. She announced that Greg Bugbee is the new Chair and Diane Summa is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Education. The next Board of Education meeting is January 13th.
- Joyce Ricci is now the Council Liaison and David Griffiths is the alternate for EDC. She reported that David Griffiths and Gail Oakley-Pratt are the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.
- Presently, Council is re-working the snow removal ordinance to clear up the wording regarding some of the liability.
- Lynn LaBerge reported that the Danielson Fire Department is looking into a new tower truck.

8. Commission Member Reports – no reports.

9. Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Steven Gilbert to adjourn at 6:05 PM. It was **SECONDED** by Kevin Cole. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaRoche
Recording Secretary