

# KILLINGLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
Killingly Town Hall  
Conference Room 102  
172 Main Street  
Killingly, CT**



Dale Desmarais, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

1. Roll Call:

Members Present: Dale Desmarais, Rand Joly, Bill Cheng, Kevin Cole, Todd Cooke, Mark Tillinghast (5:02) and Steven Gilbert (5:10).

Others Present: Joyce Ricci, Town Council Liaison; David Griffiths, Alternate Town Council Liaison; John Hallbergh, Town Councilor; Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director of Planning & Development; Elsie Bisset, Economic Development Director and Judy LaRoche, Acting Recording Secretary.

Rand Joly made a **MOTION** to move item 6a before item 2. It was **SECONDED** by Bill Cheng and the voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

6. New Business

a) Speaker – Matt Nemeth – CT Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – Matt showed a PowerPoint presentation concerning what the Development Center offers.

b) Some of the highlights were:

- Mission is to help businesses start, grow & thrive by providing customized advice.
- Less than 500 employees is considered a small business.
- Entrepreneurs are problem solvers.
- Their central office is located at UConn. They used to be at the community colleges.
- He works with all types of businesses.
- Growct.com;
- He doesn't solicit people; they find him or can be referred to by us. Go to the website, sign up and fill out intake information.
- He provided an overview of many different software programs available to assist with business needs.
- No Cost!

2. Approval of Minutes:

A **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2016 was made by Bill Cheng. It was **SECONDED** by Kevin Cole. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

3. Correspondence – None

4. Citizen's Participation – None

5. Unfinished Business

a) Economic Development Trust Fund – The beginning balance of the Trust Fund as of February 1, 2016 was \$270,900.97. The interest for February was \$103.25. The balance as of February 29, 2016 is \$271,004.22.

b) Update of Projects – Elsie reported the following:

- The lead and asbestos sampling begins tomorrow at 140 Main St. and the report should be completed in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Sherwin Williams opened yesterday at their new location in Killingly Plaza and the ribbon cutting will be next Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.
- Spirol International has started the site work for their expansion on Rock Avenue.

- Mother Nature's Garden will have a groundbreaking for a garden on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ribbon cutting with a bench honoring Linda Walden will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The next KBA on Thursday will be held in the Town Meeting Room and their next event, Harmonies & Hops will be Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 3:00 PM
- On Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, there will be a Special P & Z meeting concerning gravel regulations
- The CT Main Street Center Community Conversation will be Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Killingly High School cafeteria.
- The Killingly High School Career Fair is Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Financial Reality Fair is Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and they're looking for volunteers.
- Copies of the Special Commission on Law Enforcement Strategies report were distributed to members.
- Elsie also distributed copies of the Central Business District map. That is the area that will be eligible to use the million dollar grant. Kevin Cole asked about what we can use the money for. Elsie explained that when staff meets with DECD, they will receive more detailed information about its use.

7. Liaison Reports – Joyce Ricci reported the following items discussed recently at Council.

- Law Enforcement Commission presented the report just given to members. Council is going to visit the Plainfield Police Department this month. Many other local departments came and spoke to the committee.
  - ◆ Some ideas investigated were: having constables; sending people to the Police Academy and then eliminating Resident Troopers as we have people trained. Have a Resident Trooper in charge and the others under him.
  - ◆ It costs \$1M for Resident Troopers. Todd asked why they disbanded. Joyce said it wasn't a greatly respected force and it was a lot of money.
  - ◆ Joyce said Montville built a police station 5 years before they had officers.
- The recent audit for the Town went well; it was a good clean audit. There were a few issues with the Board of Education not providing information in a timely manner.

Bill Cheng reported there was an Open Space meeting.

- Director of Planning & Development Ann-Marie Aubrey elaborated on each of the properties. Two properties were discussed and one did not meet the criteria. The other property concerned a boat launch on Commerce Avenue. They may see if the 'Trust for Public Lands' would be interested in it. There will be an update at the April meeting.

8. Commission Member Reports

- Dale reported that United Natural Foods is closing a location in Massachusetts and about 35 employees will be coming back to Killingly. They're also looking for employees.
- Dale also mentioned hearing KBA ads on WINY radio saying to 'Shop Locally Owned'. That kind of advertising is not helping Killingly to be united. Vice-President of KBA Mike Teed said they spoke about it and are presently trying to be more inclusive to everyone. Since they've taken over; they've gotten more members that are a little larger and will focus on that in the future.
- Dale also spoke about the driveway going to Killingly Asphalt. Frito Lay will be allowed to park tractors there for 4-6 months during the ASRS warehouse build.

9. Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Cheng to adjourn at 6:15 PM. It was **SECONDED** by Kevin Cole. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaRoche  
Recording Secretary