

KILLINGLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Killingly Town Hall
Conference Room 102
172 Main Street
Killingly, CT**



Dale Desmarais, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

1. Roll Call:

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

Todd Cooke was appointed a voting member.

Others Present: John Hallbergh, Lynn LaBerge, Town Councilors; Hoween Flexer, BOE Liaison; Joyce Ricci, Town Council Liaison; Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director of Planning & Development; Elsie Bisset, Economic Development Director and Judy LaRoche, Recording Secretary.

2. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2016 was made by Bill Cheng. It was **SECONDED** by Mark Tillinghast. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

3. Correspondence – None

4. Citizen's Participation – None

5. Unfinished Business

a) Economic Development Trust Fund – Balance as of April 1, 2016 was \$271,107.51. Interest earned was \$96.67. Balance as of April 30, 2016 is \$271,204.18.

b) Update of Projects

- NTE Energy is having another information meeting at 6 PM at the Gold Eagle, tomorrow, May 4th. There will be a presentation followed by questions and answers.
- Mother Nature's Garden will have a ribbon cutting ceremony in memory of Linda Walden on May 14th at the garden on Water Street at 10 AM. The garden was designed by a Vo-Ag student.
- Elsie passed around the 2015 Grand List top ten assessments.
- The 2015 Grand List percentages list was also distributed and figures for industrial and commercial were discussed, as well as personal property. Taxes related to businesses ended up being at least 50%.
- Elsie participated in the Killingly High School career fair in April.
- Tighe building RFQ will be issued this week and due June 2nd. In June, there may be executive session to interview prospective responders. We are advertising in several different places. Discussion followed.
- Our new Assessor, Paul Hopkins, started on Monday.

6. New Business

a) Central Business District – Text Amendment – Jim Rivers gave a history concerning the prior text amendment applications which he submitted for the Central Business District (CBD). His two attempts were defeated, but, he's preparing to make some adjustments and try again. He showed some plans that were proposed for the third floor of the Main Street Exchange building and offered proposed language for another text amendment. Members asked questions to get a better understanding of the business that wants to occupy the space and discussion followed on counseling/office/medical uses in CBD. Mark Tillinghast made a **MOTION** to allow everyone to speak and Bill Cheng **SECONDED** the motion. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**. Ann Dauphinais, of 204 Wright Road, voiced her opposition and Councilor Lynn LaBerge was opposed due to loitering which occurs at the site on Commerce Ave.

Jim had an appraisal done on 2 of his buildings. It was 30% lower than 2011. Vacancies affect his building's values along with low rents. Dale asked if Jim could bring the people from the organization/clinic to speak with us to better understand their uses. He will ask them. Jim would appreciate any and all help.

7. Liaison Reports

- Joyce Ricci reported the Town meeting went well. Only 3 people wanted funding for constables taken out of the budget. The Town Council put money in a special account to be used for constables only after a future referendum.
- Hoween Flexer reported the Board of Education budget proposed a 1.73% increase of \$790,733.00.

8. Commission Member Reports – No open space meeting.

9. Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Cheng to adjourn at 6:30 PM. It was **SECONDED** by Todd Cooke. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaRoche
Recording Secretary