

KILLINGLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2015
Killingly Town Hall
Conference Room 102
172 Main Street
Killingly, CT



Dale Desmarais, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

1. Roll Call:

Members Present were Dale Desmarais, Kevin Cole, Bill Cheng, and Mark Tillinghast (5:45). Steven Gilbert was absent and Rand Joly was absent with notification.

Others Present: John Hallbergh, Town Council Liaison; Joyce Ricci, Alternate Town Council Liaison; Lynn LaBerge, John Sarantopoulos, Town Councilors; Sean Hendricks, Town Manager; Elsie Bisset, Economic Development Director and Judy LaRoche, Recording Secretary.

2. Approval of Minutes: A **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2015 was made by Bill Cheng and **SECONDED** by Kevin Cole. Elsie corrected misinformation given by her under item 5d concerning the Zone (Text) Change Application #15-1106. The property mentioned is NOT zoned CBD, it is Industrial. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

3. Correspondence – None

4. Citizen's Participation – None

A **MOTION** to move item 6a to before item 5, was made by Kevin Cole and **SECONDED** by Bill Cheng. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

A **MOTION** to suspend the rules was made by Kevin Cole and **SECONDED** by Bill Cheng. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**. John Sarantopoulos added a comment about adding solar panels to some of the schools.

6. New Business

FuelCell Energy, Inc. – Geoff Slevin, Director of Business Development, presented an overview of the company with handouts and the proposal for a fuel cell park at 207 Tracy Road valued at approximately \$45 million. He requested an extension of economic tax incentives for an additional 10 years. The commission discussed the project and concluded that this proposed project is ideally suited for the location in close proximity to the necessary utilities and that the tax revenues gained would warrant a development agreement.

Kevin Cole made a **MOTION** to send a recommendation to the Council supporting the FuelCell Energy, Inc. Project. It was **SECONDED** by Bill Cheng. The voice vote was **3 in favor and Dale Desmarais abstaining.**

5. Unfinished Business

- a) Economic Development Trust Fund – The beginning balance of the Trust Fund as of May 1, 2015 was \$297,559.78. Interest for May was \$17.69 and the ending balance was \$297,577.47. \$44,013.71 was reimbursed to the Town for invoices paid for VHB consultants and signage during the fiscal year. Interest for June was \$16.02 and the balance for June 30, 2015 was \$253,563.76. (The Itemized list of invoices is available upon request.)
- b) Update of Projects – Elsie reported the following:
- Elsie distributed the new restaurant and retail shopping guides.
 - Kevin asked about the new 395 highway exit signs. Will they all say Killingly or Attawaugan, Dayville, etc.? Elsie will find out.
 - We put a welcome ad in the Turnpike Buyer after two recent ribbon cuttings at CosmoProf and Up Top Screenprinting.
 - We also advertised for businesses to locate in Killingly in the New England Real Estate Journal.
 - The Tiffany Tribute Art Mosaic is up on Main Street near Citizen's National Bank. About 20 people came in to see the artist constructing the piece in John Tighe's building, which was the same day that the Dennis Lemery Memorial Training Center for firefighters opened.
 - Sean said that Geoff will be back to present to the Town Council next Tuesday. In the meantime, he and Elsie hope to go to Bridgeport and tour the site.
 - The streetscape planters should be in place this week and people have volunteered to help plant and take care of them.
 - The downtown sidewalk sales are July 30th to August 1st.
 - Elsie asked members if they would be agreeable to having the EDC Agenda Packets emailed to them. If they need something from the packet printed, they could call and request it. All present agreed.
 - Our next meeting is August 4th; which is also when EDC is scheduled to meet with Council. Dale suggested we change the meeting to 6:00 PM, since the Council meeting is at 7:00 PM. All present agreed.

7. Liaison Reports:

- Bill Cheng said that Open Space met for their annual meeting, but, there was nothing they would move forward on.

- John Hallbergh said the engineering van was sold to NECCOG, we replaced it with a new, smaller van, which gets better mileage.
- Council also passed a resolution to raise the fees for landfill; bags went up to \$3.00.
- They also passed a resolution for the Town Manager to exercise a 3 year lease with Virtual Towns and Schools. We're re-doing the Town website and making it more user-friendly.
- There was also a resolution to approve Parcel X as a preferred location for a new industrial park.
- Council is also moving forward with capital improvement projects at the schools concerning some roofs and windows.
- Thursday morning from 5:00 to 9:00 AM, Channel 8 Weatherman, Gil Simmons will be reporting from Davis Park. He also will be announcing the car show that night. John will be bringing his car down.
- Joyce said the KHS gym floor is in the process of being fixed.
- Parks and Recreation is working on their August 20th Bike Night on Main Street. Hopefully, the merchants will be open and participate. The road striping should be done by then, also, with parking only on the east side of the street, heading north.

8. Commission Member Reports:

- Dale reported that Frito Lay's office expansion will be complete by September.
- Kevin Cole remarked to John Hallbergh that at the FuelCell presentation to Council on Tuesday, they need to have Geoff stress the safety of the project.

9. Adjournment:

A **MOTION** was made by Bill Cheng to adjourn at 6:25 PM. It was **SECONDED** by Kevin Cole. The voice vote was **ALL IN FAVOR**.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaRoche
Recording Secretary