

# TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

11 RYE STREET, P.O. BOX 389

BROAD BROOK, CT 06016

Website: <http://www.eastwindsorct.com>

---

---

### *Regular Meeting Minutes*

### *Monday, April 15, 2013*

---

---

#### I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

*Members Present:* Eric Moffett, James Richards and Ryan Nilsson.

*Also in Attendance:* Galen Semprebson and Tim Lesniak from the Trolley Museum

Chairman Eric Moffett called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Town Hall meeting room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

#### II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Galen Semprebson and Tim Lesniak from the Trolley Museum came forward. Mr. Semprebson explained that the museum has a bonding request in front of the State Legislature for 3.5 million dollars. He said they are getting some support and are hopeful that it will go through either this year or next year. A portion of the grant would be going toward the existing infrastructure, to maintain the building and railway. He said a portion would go towards expansion of the museum. They want to bring in new business for the museum. Mr. Semprebson said hopefully the town will support their endeavors.

Mr. Richards asked about the possibility of laying the tracks all the way to Church Street. He questioned whether that is part of their plan. Mr. Semprebson said first they need to get the existing infrastructure into shape. He said some of the buildings are 50 to 60 years old. Mr. Richards asked if they've looked into the busway. Mr. Semprebson said there is not enough population to support mass transit. Mr. Moffett asked how far the line goes now. Mr. Semprebson said the tracks end on Mill Street. He said they looked into some options trying to get access into Broad Brook. That would involve fairly significant land acquisition. Mr. Lesniak noted that Mill Street is on a hill and the change in elevation would be a contributing factor. He also noted that track construction is very expensive.

Mr. Moffett asked about the grant. Mr. Semprebson said it would be from the Legislature General Fund. He said Senator Gary LeBeau put in the request for them and they have support from some of the other State people. Mr. Lesniak noted that this is being proposed under Bill 527.

Mr. Semprebson said the museum is expanding their paid staff and their volunteer base. He

said they want to be self-sufficient enough to support their expanding infrastructure. Mr. Richards said they are doing a great job.

**MOTION:** To give our support to SB 527 as an Economic Development Commission and to forward a letter to the Board of Selectmen to support it as well.  
Richards / Nilsson / Unanimous

Discussion continued regarding the Trolley Museum. Mr. Semprebon further explained the work that needed to be done on the existing infrastructure. He noted that they have had damage from trees due to some previous storms. The overhead on the signal system needs to be repaired. The tracks are in need of major work. They have to replace some of the poles that were ripped out. They will need to replace the roofs on some of the buildings. He said there is a lot going on. He said once they get towards the Scantic River they want to tie the museum into the linear park. Mr. Moffett asked if the work will have to go out to bid. Mr. Semprebon replied that they will have to work through the State bid process. He noted that will create some jobs.

Mr. Richards suggested building a platform with a roof at the end of the track where people can get off and possibly have some vendors there. Mr. Moffett asked what can they do differently to attract more people. Mr. Semprebon noted that a significant amount of the money will be going to something new. He said they have talked about putting up another building that is set up for both the Winter Fest and the Rails to the Dark Side, to house both events permanently. It is all in the visitors' center now. Mr. Richards suggested having a dining car at the end. Mr. Nilsson asked if they have anything planned at the end of the track. Mr. Semprebon talked about extending to Piney Ridge. It is about 2,200 feet away. He said one of the members owns 8 or 9 acres of the original Piney Ridge Park. They can create a picnic grove there. He said once they cross the bridge they would have access to the linear park.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting as written.  
Richards / Nilsson / Unanimous

### **IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- **175<sup>th</sup> Four-Town Fair Promotional Opportunity**

Mr. Richards referred to a portion of a memo prepared by Laurie Whitten regarding using funds from this year's budget for an event next year. It stated that "if you utilize money from this year's budget, you must have a deliverable within this year. IE, if you plan to sponsor a float, it must be completed as a 'deliverable' within this year."

- **Economic Development Issues**

The EDC members briefly discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development. They went over some portions of the existing POCD section: “Core Strategy: Guiding Development, Business Strategies and Actions” and discussed some of the proposed changes. Mr. Moffett said they have accomplished many of the things from the existing POCD. He felt that they couldn’t add too much more. The other EDC members were in agreement.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn. Nilsson / Richards / Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer  
Recording Secretary