

**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, July 20, 2015***

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**I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

*Members Present:* Josh Kapelner, Jim Richards, Andy Hoffman,  
Bill Kehoe and Luis Valdez Jimenez.

*Also in attendance:* Laurie Whitten, Town Planner and Roger  
O'Brien, Economic Development

Acting Chairman Kapelner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** To approve Bill Kehoe and Luis Valdez Jimenez serving as  
official voting members for this meeting.  
Richards / Hoffman / Unanimous

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

One correction was pointed out: To insert before Public Participation  
that Bill Kehoe was approved to serve as a voting member.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of June 15, 2015 with one change,  
that Bill Kehoe was approved to serve as a full voting  
member at the meeting.  
Richards / Kehoe / Unanimous

#### **IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

##### **Review of Draft Economic Development Assessment from Roger O'Brien**

Mr. O'Brien went over some of the items in his Assessment. He said that part of his assignment was to give everyone a summarized view of the issues that we can focus on in the coming year. He said he offered his thoughts on it after listening to everyone. He said it seemed like we were moving in a direction of identifying areas that held the most promise. He noted that there were several links to resource reports and tools in his Assessment.

Mr. Richards said he would like to have a chance to look this over and take a look at the links. He suggested that this discussion be continued until the next meeting.

**MOTION:** To continue this discussion until the next EDC meeting on September 14, 2015.

Richards / Valdez Jimenez / Unanimous

##### **Tax Incentive Program Guidelines**

Mr. Richards said this will need to go to town meeting. He said they looked at other towns' incentives and what forms they use. Mr. O'Brien said he was pleased because there was some discussion going into the Board of Selectmen that they might only adopt the incentives for the hydroponic farm, but they adopted the whole thing. It establishes the policy.

Mr. Hoffman asked about the time frame for the hydroponic farm. Ms. Whitten said they still need financing for it. She said she thought that the State is backing them as much as they can.

##### **Signs at Newberry and Thompson Roads:**

Ms. Whitten said she made a phone call to the State DOT. She is working on it.

### **Transit Oriented Development Zone**

Ms. Whitten noted that there was a recent PZC meeting that was attended by some EDC members and the consensus of the Planning & Zoning Commission is that Warehouse Point should be the next focus to study. They feel that this is the up and coming area that people will be looking at. Mr. Richards said that was a good meeting with PZC. He said hopefully it is developing into a long-term plan for that area.

### **Discussion of Economic Development Issues**

**Update on Local Businesses:** Mr. Richards reported that Tomato's Pizza has opened at the former Riverview Restaurant location. Stir the Pot Restaurant has reopened. The Clarion Hotel has changed hands. There are some empty spots at Sofia's Plaza. He said Pasco's Restaurant hasn't reopened. Ms. Whitten indicated that former Pasco's is ear-marked for an opening in September. She noted that the gas station on Route 5 at Winkler will be a Noble gas station. Mr. Richards pointed out that the Chamber does grand openings for businesses and suggested that if anyone knows of business openings they should let him know. Mr. Kehoe noted that Sonny's Place will be coming to the former Country Kitchen.

**Small Business Development Center Proposal:** Mr. Valdez Jimenez talked about creating a small business development center in town. He passed out copies of a Small Business Development Center Proposal. He said the idea was that small businesses that are based and operating in East Windsor would be eligible for this. It will give them access to seminars and workshops and possibly offer free advertising for new businesses. Mr. Valdez Jimenez said he hoped that it would be low cost. They would be relying on volunteers. He suggested that they would partner with the Chamber. He said this would be something to show that we really care.

**Meet and Greet:** The EDC members discussed the Meet and Greet for this year. Ms. Whitten noted that the EDC meeting schedule that was filed has the Meet and Greet scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>. She said she will be at the annual SNEAPA conference on that date. The date of Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> was suggested.

**MOTION:** To move the date of our Meet and Greet to Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

Kehoe / Richards / Unanimous

The EDC members discussed where to have the event. The places suggested were Merlot on the Water, Nutmeg Restaurant, LaNotte, and Maine Fish. Bill Kehoe offered to call all 4 restaurants to get prices. He will email everyone with the details. It was determined that the event will start at 5:30 p.m.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer, Recording Secretary