

**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, October 19, 2015***

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Members Present: Eric Moffett, Josh Kapelner, Andy Hoffman
and Bill Kehoe.

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

MOTION: To approve Bill Kehoe serving as a voting member for this
meeting. Kapelner / Hoffman / Unanimous

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Hoffman pointed out 2 changes to be made: On page 3, under SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, the second paragraph, after the second sentence insert: "Andy Hoffman offered to help write the plan." On page 4, the last sentence should read: "Mr. Richards requested a copy and Mr. Hoffman said he would get him a copy."

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 14, 2015 with the
changes to be incorporated.

Hoffman / Kapelner

In Favor: Hoffman; Kapelner; Moffett

Abstain: Kehoe

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Meet & Greet

Chairman Moffett said the Meet and Greet was small, about 14 businesses, He said you always learn something from the Meet and Greet. He learned that Sofia's Plaza has solar panels. They will probably power 3 businesses. They offered to help any businesses in town to get solar. Mr. Moffett said we have to keep the Meet and Greet going. It was well received for the people that were there.

Business Center

Mr. Hoffman said this is another way to reach out to the business community and to find out what their needs are. He said since Luis Jimenez is no longer on the board he would be happy to put something together. He said we should do it with the Economic Development consultant. Mr. Moffett questioned what the first step should be. Mr. Hoffman suggested they try to find out if there are other towns in our area that have done something like this. Mr. Moffett suggested contacting Metro Hartford Alliance. Mr. Hoffman said out of this could come ideas that we could pass on to the Board of Selectmen. He said when he went out to the 18 companies he learned things from it. He felt that they should resume the business interviews.

Mr. Hoffman said he will start writing up a goal and plan as to how we get there. Mr. Moffett suggested calling the SBA. Mr. Kapelner said SCORE is an organization that has all kinds of programs. Mr. Kehoe said he knows a lot of universities that have small business centers. He knows who to contact at UConn and he will look into it. Mr. Hoffman asked everyone to email their thoughts to him.

Route 5 / HIFZ Area

Mr. Moffett said they contacted the 3 major land owners. National Amusements still owns the property. Walmart is under an 8-year lease. LaRenaissance is a potential church. They also plan to have a 4-story hotel and a dinner theater. He said all 3 land owners are willing to sit down and talk regarding the casino. Mr. Moffett noted that Ms. Menard, Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Whitten are putting together an RFP.

Mr. Kapelner expressed concern about the economic development impact of having a church at the LaRenaissance site. He suggested getting legal counsel for an opinion.

Route 140 Follow-up Status

Mr. Hoffman talked about a Trolley Museum proposal to the State for a grant to expand the museum where nothing was done. He suggested they try to do something to help the Trolley Museum go ahead with enhancing the area. It is sitting there with volunteers that don't have the financial resources. Mr. Hoffman said he would get a hard copy of the proposal to the Planning Office to send to the other EDC members. Mr. Kapelner said it has historical value and tourism value. He felt that Chris Davis will support what we ask for. Mr. Kehoe said as a Town we can continue to support events like the farmers' market which is held there. Mr. Moffett suggested that the Trolley Museum can be used to rent for business meetings and functions. Mr. Kehoe suggested they hold a meet and greet there.

Discussion of Economic Development Issues

Mr. Hoffman suggested getting a person like Larry Tribble involved and proposed to get existing businesses involved to help.

MOTION: That the Economic Development Commission resume business interviews.

Motion by Mr. Hoffman. There was no second.

Mr. Kapelner said that is what Roger O'Brien is being engaged to do. Since he wasn't at this meeting he would prefer that this be tabled. Mr. Moffett proposed that the EDC suggest to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. O'Brien visit businesses.

MOTION: To adjourn. Kapelner / Kehoe / Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer, Recording Secretary