

**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 (Discussion)

Monday, December 18, 2017

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Members Present: Nicholas Laskos.

Also Present: Laurie Whitten, Town Planner
Matt Tyksinski, Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement
Official, Assistant Planner
Roger O'Brien, Economic Development Consultant
Robert Maynard, First Selectman
Andy Hoffman, Board of Selectmen Member
Rachel Safford, Guest

The meeting began at 6:03 at the East Windsor Town Hall meeting room, 11 rye Street, Broad Brook, CT

An informal discussion took place with no motions or votes, as a quorum was not established.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

To be voted on at the next meeting.

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Andy Hoffman said he would like to see the Town hire a full-time economic development director. He said when he was on the EDC he went to businesses in town. He said we have a new casino coming in town. The town will have the opportunity to grow. Mr. Hoffman said he called the towns of South Windsor and Windsor for the job descriptions for their economic development directors. We

have a lot of things that should go on in town. First Selectman Maynard said we don't have enough money in town to do much. In town hall we are stretched. Mr. Laskos said we talked in the past about waiting for the casino money. Mr. Hoffman suggested that we write a good RFP. He said if we do it right it will be some time in mid-summer before we start interviewing people.

Rachel Safford asked about grants. She said there is probably some grant money out there to explore. She said the CT Business Association does grants. She suggested networking with the young professionals and maybe bringing in an intern with local knowledge.

Mr. O'Brien said we need to get new people on the EDC. Until we do that it is premature to talk about extra help. He suggested that there should be a realtor on the EDC. They know what businesses are looking for. Ms. Safford said a lot of healthcare facilities are looking for places. Mr. Maynard noted that there is a 122-unit elderly housing apartment complex coming in soon.

Ms. Safford said we need a strategy. She suggested starting with a goal and working backwards. Mr. O'Brien said we should start by looking at the Plan of Conservation and Development. What plans does the town have for a certain area. Ms. Whitten said the Warehouse Point area is in the crosshairs. She said we need to update our zoning. We did the plan (POCD) but we have not implemented anything. Mr. O'Brien said the Board of Selectmen should create a plan for itself and EDC should be part of that.

Ms. Whitten said the big thing now is to try to get people on the board. Mr. O'Brien suggested looking at the top 10 employers to see if they have potential people. Mr. Hoffman said we need to come up with a number of names of people that have expertise and interest. Mr. Hoffman said this town is lacking the education for the boards. Ms. Safford suggested identifying the type of people you want and recruiting them. She said we should move through the anger in town. You have to let it go or nothing is going to be done. Ms. Whitten said the recruitment is critical. We have a good opportunity to pick who we get on this board.

Mr. Maynard said they have started putting things on facebook and the town website as things happen with the casino.

Ms. Whitten asked about the new website. Mr. Maynard referred to the Town of Simsbury EDC website (on the smart board) and noted that we will build our site off of that.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Bauer, Recording Secretary