

**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, February 22, 2016***

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

Also Present: Laurie Whitten, Town Planner; Roger O'Brien,
Economic Development Consultant; Robert
Maynard, First Selectman

Guest: Robert Saunders, of the North Central CT
Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Moffett called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Hoffman pointed out a change to be made on page 3, number 6, first sentence should read: "Mr. Hoffman suggested members of the Small Business Center could prepare presentations to assist small businesses that do not have the expertise to present their case in an efficient and cost effective manner."

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 25, 2016, as amended.
Hoffman / Kehoe

In Favor: Hoffman; Kehoe

Abstain: Moffett

IV. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

First Selectman Robert Maynard introduced Robert Saunders to the EDC members. Mr. Saunders explained that the North Central CT Chamber of Commerce is having their Home and Product Show on March 12th and 13th at the former Walmart building. He noted that they have 90 booths already. Mr. Hoffman suggested having a table with several people from the Town to have a talk and answer questions about the town and have printed information on the town available. Mr. Maynard suggested having a banner and asked members if they would be willing to participate. Mr. Moffett suggested sending a town-wide e-blast.

Mr. Saunders explained that the North Central CT Chamber began in the 1800's as the Thompsonville Chamber. It serves the towns of East Windsor, Somers, Suffield and Enfield. He noted that they often have business breakfasts where they would have social media experts that tell them how to market their businesses.

Small Business Center

Mr. Hoffman passed out copies of Draft Two of a Small Business Center Mission Statement. The EDC members reviewed it and made a few changes to read as follows: "The East Windsor Small Business Center (SBC) shall support the Planning Office and the Office of the First Selectman by interfacing with local businesses to facilitate discussions to bring resolution to problems that concern the business community. Periodic meetings will be held in conjunction with the East Windsor Chamber of Commerce and local and regional chambers of commerce."

Mr. Hoffman said he would like the EDC members to agree on producing a schedule and get a date for a meeting. He said he would like to get back to Denise Whitford from UConn. He would like to ask her to participate by preparing a 5 to 10 minute presentation. He suggested having Eric Moffett and Bob Maynard say a few words. He felt the meeting should be about one to one and a half hours long. He suggested having every EDC member call about 20 businesses. Scout Hall was suggested as a venue to have the meeting. Mr. Moffett suggested contacting Larry Tribble to ask him if he would be willing to host it at Southern Auto and possibly give a tour of that facility. Ms. Whitten said she went to the Farmington Economic Development Forum that was an early morning meeting. She said there were a lot of people there. The EDC members

felt that a Tuesday morning would be a good time to have the meeting. Bill Kehoe suggested having one of the restaurants in town sponsor it. Mr. Moffett said he would like to start with Southern Auto. He felt that they should have the meeting no later than June 15th. Mr. Hoffman said he would like to send out a schedule once again that aims at having a meeting in May. He will send it out by email and would like everyone's comments.

Casino

Mr. Maynard said the Center Plan site south of Exit 44 is no longer in consideration. They didn't renew their options. Ms. Whitten said she put together an RFP for the MMCT for the Showcase Cinemas site. She said there was a comment in the paper that they had received it and had positive things to say. She said we are in competition with Windsor Locks, East Hartford and Hartford. The casino has to be approved by the State Legislature. It might not go forward this year.

Mr. Moffett questioned what they can do to make this a more attractive site. Ms. Whitten said MMCT is taking their time on this. She said we don't have a development plan. Mr. Moffett suggested going to visit them and say that the town is interested in those properties beyond the casino. He suggested having Roger O'Brien contact them. Mr. O'Brien said he will make the call.

Election of Officers

Tabled to the next meeting.

Discussion of Economic Development Issues

Ms. Whitten indicated that Roger O'Brien is going to work on tax abatement programs that will allow tax abatements on multi-family and elderly housing.

Mr. Whitten said we are trying to find a new person to replace Robin Newton that will take over this commission. She said we are thinking of hiring on a part-time basis Ginny Higley from Enfield for the time being to do enforcement.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn. Kehoe / Hoffman / Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer, Recording Secretary