

**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, September 19, 2016***

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Members Present: Eric Moffett and Bill Kehoe (via conference call)

Also in Attendance: Laurie Whitten, Town Planner
Robert Maynard, First Selectman joined the meeting
later into the meeting

The meeting began at 6:15 p.m. at the Planning & Zoning Office, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

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

II. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Meet & Greet

Discussion took place regarding other possible options for the Meet and Greet. Ms. Whitten suggested inviting someone from CRCOG or Metro Hartford Alliance. Mr. Moffett suggested having something in the morning. Mr. Kehoe asked about the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Moffett suggested partnering up with the Chamber and possibly participating in one of the regular Chamber meetings and have the Meet and Greet in conjunction with their meeting. That way they could get some business participation and get new businesses involved with the Chamber. Mr. Kehoe asked what they could call it. Mr. Moffett suggested calling it the EDC Business Forum with the East Windsor Chamber. Mr. Kehoe liked that idea. He said it could segue into the small business center. Ms. Whitten noted that the next Chamber meeting is on October 11th at 12:30 at the Main Street Grille. That is less than a month away. She said Jim Richards

has always supported the Meet and Greet. She said she will talk to him to see what he has to say about it.

CGI Advertisement for Town

Ms. Whitten explained that about 8 years ago CGI did a video for East Windsor. They are now back with us to do videos again. We have been working with them for a few months. The topics of the videos will be welcome to East Windsor, economic development, quality of life and education with Dr. Kane. Ms. Whitten said it is all free to us and businesses will have the opportunity to advertise on our web site around the video.

Small Business Center

Mr. Moffett said we can get a sense from the Meet and Greet if there is interest.

Economic Development Issues

Ms. Whitten noted that they have done a Warehouse Point study. They had a workshop in Warehouse Point that was attended by several residents of that area. Everyone is excited about redesigning Warehouse Point. They are coming up with guidelines. They are trying to tie into the transportation oriented development district.

Ms. Whitten reported that Calamar has been approved for a 122- unit elderly residential apartment complex on North Road, across from Dunkin Donuts. They have worked with the developer and the Planning & Zoning Commission for the last year on new regulations. Hopefully it will be successful in town. They are looking for tax abatements.

Mr. Whitten noted that the weekend newspaper said that the tribal nations are looking for new RFP's. She said it wouldn't hurt to call them and say things have changed. We have an 80-room hotel approved next to the site of the former theaters and the former Walmart. She noted that Roger O'Brien has the contacts and suggested asking him to get in touch with the contacts for the former Walmart and cinemas. She said she will talk to Bob Maynard about asking Mr. O'Brien to get in touch with them.

Ms. Moffett asked about Skylark Airport. Ms. Whitten said it was purchased and will remain an airport. They have expanded the airport. They have paved the site. She said we need to meet with the owner and see what their plans are.

Ms. Whitten noted that there are two new gas stations. Both seem to be doing well.

Ms. Whitten reported that West River Farms is starting to build.

Some discussion took place about the need for a full-time economic development person. Mr. Moffett said someone needs to be consistent with Metro Hartford Alliance. He said we also need to get more people on the EDC. He said we have to get a game plan of what we can do as an EDC. He said we need to focus on social media and advertise there. We need someone who can work facebook and social media. Ms. Whitten suggested getting a college student to keep up our facebook page. We should have a link to business properties available in town.

At this point in the meeting, Robert Maynard joined the meeting. He said what we don't have in place is the information to put on the internet. He questioned whether we have the staff to put it on social media. Ms. Whitten said it is a matter of maintaining it. It was suggested getting a part-time social media person to keep up an EDC facebook page. She suggested putting something on the Town's home page that directs people to our facebook page. She said we can have links to CERC and other agencies. She said this is something that the Board of Selectmen can promote.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bauer, Recording Secretary