

**Town of East Windsor
Economic Development Commission**

11 Rye Street
Broad Brook, CT. 06016
Website: <http://www.eastwindsorct.com>

Regular Meeting
Monday, November 19, 2018
Town Hall Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

**** These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting****

Economic Development Commission

Eric Moffett, Chairman

Members: Gil Hayes, William Kehoe, Nicholas Laskos, Bob Lyke

Members Present: Eric Moffett (Chairman), Gil Hayes, Nicholas Laskos, and Bob Lyke, Jr.

Members Absent: William Kehoe.

Guests: Matt Tyksinski, Assistant Town Planner; Robert Maynard, First Selectman; Andy Hoffman, Board of Selectman liaison to the Economic Development Commission, and Nikole Richmond.

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as four Regular Members were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Nikole Richmond is visiting the Commission to see how the Commission operates, and to get an understanding of their goals. Mrs. Richmond is considering joining the Commission as an Alternate Member.

Chairman Moffett welcomed Mrs. Richmond to the meeting. He noted all Commission members are volunteers who are trying to do what they can to guide the town; at the end of the day their intention is to increase the Town's tax base by the promotion of economic development. Chairman Moffett noted it's always nice to see new faces. The number one thing the Commission tries to do is educate the people with the correct information about the benefits of economic development. Chairman Moffett cited examples of collaborative efforts between the

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Economic Development Commission and other Town agencies which benefited the entire town; two of those examples were the expansion of the sewer system and the approval of the casino. Chairman Moffett cited if the Commission can do that the rest comes easily – not quickly, but easily.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ October 15, 2018 Regular Meeting:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting dated October 15, 2018.

Lyke moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Hoffman suggested the name of the spokesman for UTC should be reflected under page 2 of the Minutes under Economic Development Issues; he is Martin D'Eramo, Assistant Director of Government Relationships for Connecticut. Discussion continued regarding the status of the discussions regarding the Broad Brook Mill; Mr. Lyke called the question. See additional discussion under Economic Development Issues.

**MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting dated October 15, 2018, as amended:
Page 2, Economic Development Issues: “Mr. Hoffman said there is a point person – Mr. Martin D'Eramo, Assistant Director of Government Relationships for Connecticut.....”**

Lyke moved/Hayes seconded/

**VOTE: In Favor: Moffett/Laskos/Lyke
Opposed: No one
Abstained: Hayes**

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

CERC Proposal – Assistance with separate EDC Website:

First Selectman Maynard and Mr. Lyke reported they recently had a phone conversation with the people working on new Town website; it will take additional time to get the EDC Website functional. Selectman Hoffman questioned what happened to the June conversation with the representatives from CERC who had indicated the EDC Website would be operational in August? First Selectman Maynard explained the vendors involved in the website redesign, including CERC's development of a business inventory; he felt it will be 6 weeks before the EDC Website is active.

Discussion continued regarding CERC's continuing role in development of the EDC component. Chairman Moffett suggested getting a beta website up and CERC could then populate it with business information. Chairman Moffett indicated he wanted photos included in a rotational slide show on the main page which include businesses, preferably those posting “we're hiring” signs as Mr. Lyke has indicated are posted in the Industrial Park. Selectman Hoffman questioned if

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there is a continuing schedule of meetings proposed with CERC; he noted the Commission had asked for a milestone schedule in the beginning. First Selectman Maynard indicated he's been working with Kristi Sullivan of CERC; he follow up with her and advise the Commission of his findings.

Job Description – Full-time Economic Development Coordinator:

Chairman Moffett reiterated the Commission's intent to hire an individual dedicated to economic development. The Commission felt the position should be separate from the Town Planner position. Discussion followed regarding the inability to acquire funding through the Board of Finance this budget season. The Board reiterated that the position of the Economic Development professional pays for itself through the revenue acquired through new businesses, and the support for existing businesses. Chairman Moffett will contact the Chairman of the Board of Finance to reopen dialogue on this position.

Meeting Schedule for 2019:

MOTION: To APPROVE the 2019 Meeting Schedule for the Economic Development Commission.

Laskos moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: Assistant Town Planner Tyksinski questioned if the Commission intended to schedule a Meet and Greet event for 2019, as the event had been included in the previous year's meeting schedule. The general consensus of the Commission was to schedule a Meet and Greet in place of the September 16th Regular Meeting.

MOTION: To APPROVE the 2019 Meeting Schedule for the Economic Development Commission as amended.

Laskos moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Discussion of Economic Development Issues:

➤ **Broad Brook Mill:**

Selectman Hoffman reported that he feels Mr. D'Eramo has brought reason to the Mill issue. He recalled that DEEP had wanted to pile contaminants behind the Congregational Church; the Town has objected strongly to that proposal. Mr. D'Eramo has listened to the Committee and has spoken to DEEP who now has said if the Mill is structurally strong that would be better for development of the Mill. Several individuals, including First Selectman Maynard, recently had a walk-through of the Mill with a structural engineer, Elizabeth Acly, of Cirrus Structural Engineering. The structural engineer has recommended that the hole in the roof of the Mill be fixed to stabilize it. Selectman Hoffman indicated he looks at what's happened over the last six months as favorable for saving the Mill, and making it a site for development. Mr. D'Eramo has indicated that DEEP has a list of 10 or 12 developers interested in historic buildings

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whom they would be willing to work with. Selectman Hoffman indicated he felt that things are happening at a reasonable pace.

➤ **Charter Revision Commission Survey:**

Mr. Lyke noted the Charter Revision Commission has undertaken a survey to get public input regarding several aspects of Town government as it functions currently. Mr. Lyke urged fellow Commissioners to participate in the survey as it provides the ability for written input as well as answering yes or no questions. He noted one of the questions relates specifically to economic development. Discussion followed regarding the role of the Economic Development Commission as it relates to the current Charter.

➤ **Calamar, 20 North Road:**

Assistant Town Planner Tyksinski indicated work has temporarily been suspended.

➤ **Casino:**

Assistant Town Planner Tyksinski noted that MMCT Ventures continues to move forward with development of the casino. Local approvals have been granted through both the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Next Economic Development Commission Meeting:

December 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN the Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Hayes moved/Laskos seconded/

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted:

Peg Hoffman, Substitute Recording Secretary, East Windsor Economic Development Commission.