

**Town of East Windsor
Economic Development Commission**

11 Rye Street
Broad Brook, CT. 06016

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

Meeting held via ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 250 722 574
Town Hall closed to the Public by
Executive Order of First Selectman Bowsza
due to Coronavirus pandemic

Meeting Minutes

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

Economic Development Commission

Gil Hayes, Chairman
Bob Lyke, Jr., Vice Chairman
Bob Maynard
James Richard
Maria Rumore

Chairman Hayes was having technical difficulties accessing the meeting; he requested Vice Chairman Bob Lyke to Chair the meeting.

Vice Chairman Lyke called the September 1, 2020 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Economic Development Commission to Order at 6:11 p.m. The Meeting is being held via teleconference due to closure of the Town Hall to the public as the result of the coronavirus epidemic.

Members Present: Gil Hayes (Chairman), Bob Lyke, Jr., Jim Richards, and Maria Rumore, Alternate.

Members Absent: Bob Maynard.

Guests: Melissa Maltese, Director of Community Services, provided the ZOOM link for this meeting. Also present were Ruthanne Calabrese, Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer and Planning Department liaison to the

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Economic Development Commission; and Marie DeSousa, Board of Selectman liaison to the Economic Development Commission.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established with three Regular Members and one Alternate Member present.

MOTION: To APPROVE Maria Rumore as a full voting member for this meeting.

Richards moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ruthanne Calabrese introduced herself as a recent addition to the Planning Department; her official position is Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer. Part of her job is also as the Department liaison to the Economic Development Commission. The Commission welcomed her to East Windsor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ July 7, 2020 REGULAR MEETING:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting dated July 7, 2020 as presented.

Richards moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

GENERAL DISCUSSION/A. EDC website discussion:

Chairman Hayes reported that Commission Maynard has been delayed; he hopes to join the meeting shortly. He, too, is having problems accessing the meeting.

MOTION: To POSTPONE discussion of the website until Commission Maynard is able to join the meeting.

Richards moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

GENERAL DISCUSSION/B. Discussion of 5 Year Plan:

Commissioner Richards opened discussion by referencing the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) as being a 10-year plan for future development and growth in East

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Windsor. He recalled that the EDC participated in creating their section of the POCD; he suggested the Commission should review the plan to refresh themselves with the goals for the EDC. Commissioner Richards felt there were several goals for the Commission. If the Commission chose three or four of those goals, and began working to accomplishing them, the Commission could request a budget geared towards those goals.

Vice Chairman Lyke suggested past budget requests had included funding for an Economic Development Coordinator who was a separate individual from the Town Planner. Commissioner Richards cited funding hasn't been provided for that position in past budgets. In the meantime, the Commission can work towards other more modest goals

Vice Chairman Lyke noted the First Selectman has brought in several new development projects, such as the solar projects which are approved through the Connecticut Siting Commission. Commissioner Richards reported he has spoken with other people interested in developing in the Warehouse Point area; he feels the Commission should be encouraging those individuals as well.

Commissioner Rumore questioned the amount of the current EDC budget, and what's the timeline to spend it? Commissioner Richards felt the current budget was approximately \$4,000; Vice Chairman Lyke clarified the budget runs for the Fiscal Year. Money not spent by June 30th is returned to the Town; a new budget cycle begins on July 1 annually. Chairman Hayes will discuss the current budget with First Selectman Bowsza; he felt the Commission budget had been reduced from previous budgets.

Vice Chairman Lyke recalled that in the past he recalled discussion of sharing an Economic Development Coordinator with another town. Discussion followed regarding Patrick McMahon, who worked for both Suffield and Windsor Locks. Mr. McMahon has gone on to work for CT Main Street, which is an organization that provides economic assistance to smaller towns.

Commissioner Richards suggested each Commissioner review the POCD regarding the EDC goals, and bring one suggestion back to the next Commission Meeting for discussion.

Discussion of Economic Development Issues:

Commissioner Richards requested to give his report, as he had to leave the EDC Meeting to attend another meeting. Commissioner Richards offered the following information:

- Watermill Landing (Calamar, 20 North Road) anticipates they will be opening on January 1, 2021, if everything goes as planned.
- He has directed the developer he spoke of earlier who is interested in a project in Warehouse to First Selectman Bowsza.

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- The Town, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, is supporting “Eat Out East Windsor” which is geared towards supporting existing restaurants during these challenging times.

Vice Chairman Lyke agreed, one of the functions of the EDC is to support existing businesses, as well as encourage new business to the community.

Hearing no further requests for discussion, Vice Chairman Lyke called for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Richards moved/Rumore seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

Respectfully submitted:

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