

**Town of East Windsor
Economic Development Commission**

11 Rye Street
Broad Brook, CT. 06016

**REGULAR Meeting
July 6, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

In-person Meeting

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 Richards, Secretary
Maria Rumore

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

Members Absent: Bob Maynard

Guests: Marie DeSousa, Board of Selectman liaison to the Economic Development Commission.

Also present was Ruthanne Calabrese, Staff Liaison to the Economic Development Commission.

I. TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:

Chairman Hayes called the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Economic Development Commission to Order at 6:02 p.m. The Meeting is being held as an in-person meeting at Town Hall; there is no remote component for this meeting.

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

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

MOTION: To MAKE Marie Rumore a Regular voting member this evening.

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Richards moved/Lyke seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Hayes/Lyke/ Richards
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Hayes led the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Rumore requested to add discussion of the Broad Brook Fire tax and its effect on businesses.

MOTION: To ADD to the Agenda under Item 5 – General Discussion/Updates, Item 5A – Discussion of the Broad Brook Fire tax and its effect on businesses.

Rumore moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Hayes/Lyke/ Richards/Rumore
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)

MOTION: To GO OUT OF THE POSTED AGENDA ORDER and move Item 5 – Chairman Hayes – Discussion of Bylaws, Section 4- Membership and Section 4.5 Attendance under GENERAL DISCUSSION UPDATES to after APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Lyke moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Hayes/Lyke/ Richards/Rumore
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chairman Hayes noted this is opportunity for the public to speak. Marie DeSousa, Deputy First Selectman, the Board of Selectman Liaison to the Economic Development Commission, was the only member of the public present; Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she had no comments at this time.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/June 1, 2021:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting dated June 1, 2021, as amended:
Public Participants: ADD Deputy First Selectman DeSousa, Board of Selectmen Liaison to the Economic Development Commission.

Richards moved/Rumore seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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VOTE: **In Favor:** **Hayes/Richards/Rumore**
 Opposed: **No one**
 Abstained: **Lyke**

VII. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES:

5. Chairman Hayes – Discussion of Bylaws, Section 4- Membership and Section 4.5 Attendance:

Chairman Hayes reported a few months ago he and Commissioner Lyke had encouraged a qualified candidate, Lynn Stanley, to submit her application for appointment to the Economic Development Commission (EDC). At the Selectmen's Meeting Selectman Baker moved to appoint Mrs. Stanley, the motion died for lack of a second. Chairman Hayes indicated he and Commissioner Lyke went to a Board of Selectmen's Meeting to ask why Mrs. Stanley wasn't appointed; they were told her appointment could be considered a conflict of interest because of Mr. Stanley's position as Building Official. Chairman Hayes indicated Mrs. Stanley now wants nothing to do with the Economic Development Commission. Chairman Hayes noted it's difficult to seek volunteers; it's now been three months and the Commission still lacks a full board of Regular Members.

Chairman Hayes indicated when Mrs. Stanley didn't get appointed he wanted to quit the EDC, but he accepted the position of Chairman and wants to help with civility amongst the members. He noted the EDC did not change meeting dates again to accommodate Commissioner Maynard; Commissioner Lyke hasn't attended EDC meetings for three months for personal reasons. Chairman Hayes felt Commissioner Lyke may not be attending EDC meetings under his Constitutional rights to boycott the non-appointment of Mrs. Stanley, or other appointments.

Commissioner Richards indicated he, too, had been in the position of thinking he had been appointed to a Commission and then was told his appointment hadn't been approved.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa recalled that the motion at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting had been made by Selectman Baker. She had been asked why she hadn't seconded the motion, but personally felt that it would be a conflict of interest due to Mr. Stanley's position as Building Inspector. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa also noted part of the criteria to appoint Mrs. Stanley had been to run the ZOOM meetings as other members didn't know how to run the meetings, and Deputy First Selectman DeSousa felt that was insulting to Mrs. Stanley. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa suggested Mrs. Stanley had an opportunity to contact the Board of Selectmen regarding the lack of her appointment and she didn't; Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she still

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feels Mrs. Stanley's appointment would create a conflict of interest. Commissioner Richards indicated Deputy First Selectman DeSousa had made those comments to him prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting; Commissioner Rumore indicated she considered Mrs. Stanley's appointment a conflict of interest as well.

Commissioner Rumore cited comments on Facebook regarding the EDC being dysfunctional. Chairman Hayes suggested dysfunctional was an inappropriate description. Commissioner Rumore noted the lack of cohesiveness of the Commission is the reason she won't step up to become a Regular Member. Commissioner Rumore noted Commissioner Maynard's absence tonight; she felt he should resign and let someone else apply. Commissioner Rumore suggested when Commissioners Lyke and Maynard don't participate in the meetings it hurts the "team".

Commissioner Lyke took the floor and noted he's been involved in Town government for 45+ years. When he started in politics he was the youngest Chairman; he ran for Selectman under the slogan "I mean business." Commissioner Lyke noted he's had several businesses in town throughout his career, and he supports local businesses. He's also a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Lyke suggested the Board of Selectmen campaigned on a platform of transparency but he feels their actions have been opaque. Commissioner Lyke noted East Windsor has no Town Manager, no CEO, no dedicated full-time professional "developer" who can hire and fire unproductive personnel; we don't have a full-time Human Resources person. Commissioner Lyke indicated he feels that East Windsor is getting bad publicity. Commissioner Lyke noted the Planning and Zoning Commission has three vacancies, the Economic Development Commission has several vacancies which they've ask to be filled ad nauseum, and the opportunity to fill the Vice Chairman position is now available because Commissioner Lyke indicated he is resigning from the EDC.

Commissioner Lyke left the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa indicated she didn't agree with Mr. Lyke's presentation as she felt it was unfair.

Chairman Hayes suggested the Commission move on with the meeting agenda.

1. Update on "Eat Out East Windsor" promotion:

Commissioner Richards reported he spent \$616 for the tv. He noted the receipts haven't been coming in as quickly as he expected, but he feels people may be

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saving them up to drop off at one time. Commissioner Richards reported the restaurants have been happy with the promotion.

2. Update on Chamber of Commerce marketing:

Commissioner Richards reported a new shop – 13 Figs – has opened in Bassdale Plaza; the shop sells handmade soaps.

Commissioner Richards also reported he's had conversations with the Bass family who now operate Bassdale Plaza. They are considering expanding the plaza. Commissioner Richards suggested the EDC should look into the zoning on Route 140, and to encourage expansion of water on Route 140 as well.

EDC Liaison Calabrese noted a meeting is scheduled to discuss the expansion of Bassdale Plaza in the next week; there may be other pathways if zoning regulations don't allow it. Chairman Hayes reported he recently had discussions with representatives of the Connecticut Water Company regarding the potential to run a water line from the proximity of the Trolley Museum further east. He had been told that the water line has to be run within 10 feet of the sewer line. Chairman Hayes suggested the Connecticut Water Company couldn't depend on people along the line hooking up, but if a large company moved in on Route 140 and needed water then the water line might be a consideration. Chairman Hayes suggested he was told the Town should pursue STEIP grants.

3. Update on POCD Implementation Committee:

EDC Liaison Calabrese cited Commissioner Lyke had been a representative on the POCD Implementation Committee, she questioned if Chairman Hayes would like to replace him? Chairman Hayes indicated he would like to be considered an alternate; he questioned if Commissioner Richards would be able to be the EDC representative? Commissioner Richards agreed.

EDC Liaison Calabrese reported the POCD Implementation Committee has met and decided they would like to have a joint commission meeting to discuss Open Space opportunities. The POCD Implementation Committee plans to invite the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency and EDC. The Planning and Zoning Commission will host the joint meeting. Invitations will go out within the next few weeks to initiate discussions.

4. Discussion of ADVANCECT presentation:

EDC Liaison Calabrese noted a copy of the ADVANCECT presentation was sent to the EDC members, as well as the PZC members. Commissioner Richards

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suggested requesting the ADVANCECT representatives return for an in-person presentation.

5a. Broad Brook Fire tax effect on businesses:

Commissioner Rumore noted she recently received a tax bill for fire services for the Broad Brook Fire Department, and noted it's impact on her personally. She questioned how the implementation of the fire tax will affect businesses in Broad Brook?

Discussion followed regarding the process for the proposal of the separation of the Broad Brook Fire Department from the Town budget, the various stages of review of the proposal for the taxpayers through public hearings, public meetings, and budget mailers, the subsequent approval of the separate budget/tax by 64% of the Broad Brook voters, to the receipt of current tax bills. Commissioner Richards suggested the impact of the fire tax wouldn't affect businesses as might be expected.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Richards moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: Nothing further

**VOTE: In Favor: Hayes/Richard/Rumore
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

Respectfully submitted:

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