

**Town of East Windsor
Economic Development Commission**

11 Rye Street
Broad Brook, CT. 06016

**REGULAR Meeting
Tuesday, September 7, 2021
6:00 p.m.
(in-person)**

AND

Meeting held via ZOOM Teleconference
Meeting ID: 714 897 1799

Meeting Minutes

**** These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting***
(See discussion under Approval of Minutes; **these Minutes become Meeting Notes**
as a Commissioner ceased participation in the meeting, leaving the Commission
without a quorum)*

Economic Development Commission

Gil Hayes, Chairman

Bob Lyke, Jr.

Bob Maynard

James Richards, Vice Chairman

Maria Rumore

I. Time and Place of Regular Meeting:

Chairman Hayes called the September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Economic Development Commission to Order at 6:00 p.m. The Meeting is being held in-person in the Town Hall Meeting Room, and remotely via the ZOOM link noted above.

Members Present: Regular Members Gil Hayes, and Jim Richards (in-person), and Alternate Member Maria Rumore (remotely).

Members Absent: Regular Members Robert Lyke, and Robert Maynard.

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MEETING MINUTES/MEETING NOTES**

Guests: First Selectman Jason Bowsza, and Deputy First Selectman DeSousa,
Board of Selectmen liaison to the Economic Development Commission.

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

II. Establish Quorum:

Chairman Hayes noted a quorum was initially established with Regular Members Hayes and Richards present in-person; Alternate Member Rumore was present remotely. Regular Members Lyke and Maynard are absent.

MOTION: To APPOINT Alternate Member Maria Rumore as a full voting member this evening.

Hayes moved/Richards seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Added Agenda Items:

Chairman Hayes added Discussion of an **EDC Facebook page** to the Agenda under **General Discussion** (Item 4).

V. Public Participation:

Chairman Hayes asked if anyone in the in-person audience, or remotely, wished to comment; no requested to speak.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/July 6, 2021:

Chairman Hayes noted Commissioner Rumore had requested that the Commission revise portions of the July 6, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee. To start the process, Commissioner Richards offered the following motion:

MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting dated July 6, 2021 as presented.

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Richards moved/Hayes seconded/DISCUSSION: Chairman Hayes reported he had signed off on the minutes as written when they were transcribed. Commissioner Rumore indicated she felt lines 152 to 168 should be deleted from the minutes, and replaced only with a short reference to Commissioner Lyke's resignation. Chairman Hayes indicated he had subsequently spoken to Commissioner Lyke, who indicated he resigned as Vice Chairman but not from the Commission. Commissioner Rumore felt all the dialogue represented by lines 152 to 168 wasn't relevant to EDC business, and should be deleted and replaced with a short summary of Commissioner Lyke's resignation. Chairman Hayes disagreed, noting the comments were made during the EDC meeting. Commissioner Rumore reiterated her contention that lines 152 to 168 had no business in the EDC Minutes; she wants those lines deleted. Commissioner Richards suggested deleting lines 152 to 168, and replacing them with a summary statement, such as "Commissioner Lyke gave a presentation as to what he felt should be done in the community and at the end of the presentation he resigned." Chairman Hayes asked Commissioner Rumore what she wanted in the minutes; Commissioner Rumore indicated a condensed version such as Commissioner Richards had just presented.

Chairman Hayes reported that Deputy First Selectman DeSousa had indicated this should have been brought to the Board of Selectmen, but he noted it occurred at the EDC meeting.

Commissioner Richards noted that if the Commission approves the minutes they don't have to talk about them again. It only takes two votes to approve the minutes. Commissioner Richards suggested that while he understands the Commission could massage the minutes a bit he understands the discussion happened.

**VOTE: In Favor: Richards
 Opposed: Rumore
 Chairman Hayes voted in favor of approving the minutes as presented
 to break the tie.**

Commissioner Rumore questioned the vote. Chairman Hayes noted that under Roberts Rules of Order he, as Chairman, can vote to break a tie. Commissioner Rumore questioned that Chairman Hayes felt the minutes were presented professionally? Chairman Hayes replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Rumore signed out of the meeting at 6:13 p.m. The Commission no longer had a quorum to conduct business, but continued discussion on the agenda items. From this point on, this document reflects Meeting Notes rather than Minutes.

VII. General Discussion/Updates:

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4, EDC Facebook Page:

Chairman Hayes questioned if Commissioner Richards was aware of the Facebook Page discussion Commissioner Rumore had requested be added to the Agenda? Commissioner Richards noted other groups in East Windsor, such as the American Heritage River Commission, DPW (Department of Public Works), Parks and Recreation, have Facebook pages which promote activities within those groups. The intent for the EDC Facebook page would be to promote more about East Windsor quickly, and to get realtors looking at the Town's available inventory. Commissioner Richards noted that information of Bank of America's recent closing – and availability – of its branch location was referred to other business entities; that information could have been shared on an EDC Facebook page. Commissioner Richards indicated the Facebook page would separate information he posts for the Chamber of Commerce.

EDC Liaison Calabrese noted that most of the other Facebook pages Commissioner Richards mentioned are Town Departments, with the exception of the American Heritage River Commission. Chairman Hayes indicated he had no problems with creating the EDC Facebook Page, as long as the Commission receives approval from EDC Liaison Calabrese and First Selectman Bowsza. First Selectman Bowsza suggested EDC Liaison Calabrese made a good point, but he hasn't seen anything objectionable for the Facebook pages of the groups mentioned; he indicated he's fine with the EDC developing a Facebook Page.

Commissioner Richards volunteered to be the EDC Facebook Page Co-ordinator.

1) Update on American Rescue Plan Grant Program by First Selectman Bowsza:

Chairman Hayes asked First Selectman Bowsza for an update on the American Rescue Plan Grant applications.

First Selectman Bowsza announced that the Town has received applications from 115 businesses and non-profit organizations. He noted East Windsor originally received substantial funding from the Federal Government for this grant program. Originally \$1.2 million was received; subsequently the amount allocated to East Windsor was closer to \$3.4 million. Initially, approximately \$1.7 million has been received; a second \$1.7 million will come in 2022.

First Selectman Bowsza indicated the Town can use its funds for five purposes:

1. To recapture lost revenue
2. To provide hazard pay for first line responders
3. To fund sewer, broad-band radio, and water projects

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4. Tourism
5. Non-profit organizations

First Selectman Bowsza noted the Board of Education received separate funding for a grant program; the allowable purposes for funding for the Board of Education is significantly larger than the purposes noted above for the municipality.

First Selectman Bowsza reported the Board of Selectman originally allocated \$900,000 for the grant program, and subsequently increased that to \$1.2 million. The Town received 115 grant applications. The Board of Selectmen awarded 103 grants; letters will be going out of the Selectmen's Office this week advising the recipients of the awards; the recipients must return specific documentation and sign an agreement prior to checks being issued.

First Selectman Bowsza viewed the process for developing the program, noting a consultant had been hired by the Town to manage the program. He noted 8 or 9 applications are being reviewed for additional information and may be awarded grants as well.

2) Update on Opera House mural by EDC Commissioner Richards:

Commissioner Richards reported this is a project promoted by Tom Kuhns and his family. They proposed to have a local artist paint a mural on the wall of the Opera House facing the Post Office; the mural will represent various musicians of different musically significant time periods and styles and an excerpt from John Lennon's "Imagine". The Kuhns family feels the mural will bring more people to Broad Brook center. They have invested \$5,000 of their money toward a matching granting from SustainableCT and CT Murals/RiseUp; East Windsor needs to raise an additional \$3,000 in contribution to received the matching funds. Commissioner Richards indicated \$1,000 has been contributed by Windsor Federal; the presentation of the donation will occur next Wednesday at noon.

3) Update on POCD Implementation Committee:

EDC Liaison Calabrese reminded Chairman Hayes and Commissioner Richards the POCD Implementation Committee is holding a joint meeting during the September 28, 2021 Planning and Zoning Committee to discuss Open Space goals and recommendations referenced in the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development. She noted Commissioner Richards has volunteered to represent the EDC on the POCD Implementation Committee. She noted the Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

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4) EDC Facebook page:

See discussion above.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Hayes adjourned the Meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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