

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, 7:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman Chris Todd, Donna Resutek, and Alternate Stefanie Cunningham (arrived at 7:13 PM)

**ABSENT:** Stanislav Moline, David Hurley, and Alternate Francie Berger

### STAFF

**PRESENT:** Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Troy M. Ciesco, Land Use Technician/Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

**III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion: Connecticut Economic Resource Center's self-assessment survey.

The commission and staff decided to discuss commercial site inventory and business attraction and retention as areas of focus. Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, noted that the Connecticut Economic Resource Center's site inventory may not suit the town's needs due to the low number of properties that can be listed. Chairman Kelly suggested using the town website as a location for inventory.

The commission and staff then discussed finding examples from other towns on possible business retention and attraction strategies. Chairman Kelly noted that the mission statement should be used to help develop any strategy, and that testimonials from current businesses may be useful.

Commissioner Cunningham pointed out a need to provide resources for business owners from minority groups. Commissioner Todd suggested that the strategy could highlight a number of different grant opportunities, including those focused on minority groups.

Chairman Kelly asked the commission to begin to look for different grant programs. Further discussion ensued.

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

a. Economic Development Committee Meeting(s) – Staff Report

Ms. Houlihan reported that the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce is in the process of reviewing nominations for their annual awards.

b. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce 2016 Membership Contribution

**MOVED (TODD), SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF THE 2016 DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE TOLLAND COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

3. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan updated the commission on the properties under consideration for the farmland preservation program. She also explained that the Planning Department is looking into the Farm Viability Grant in order to have a Cost of Community Service Study conducted for the town.

4. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits

Ms. Houlihan noted that a recent spike in page views to Shop.Ellington seem to coincide with the release of the new Ellington Events publication. The commission was in general agreement that the new publication is a significant improvement over the old format.

5. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

Ms. Houlihan reported that a recent state Senate bill was passed which removes certain thresholds for tax abatement programs. She noted that the new legislation is less restrictive than the commission's policy. By consensus the commission decided not to change their program at this time.

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Ms. Houlihan reported that this month the Planning and Zoning Commission will be reviewing applications for an ice cream shop on Church Street and an assisted living facility on West Road.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of the August 10, 2016 regular meeting minutes.

**MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 10, 2016 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

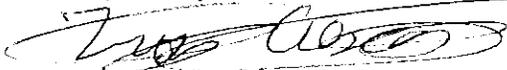
2. Correspondence:

- a. Socktoberfest – Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 5pm – 7pm, 6 Industrial Drive, Ellington, CT.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY  
TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:59  
PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Troy Ciesco, Recording Clerk