



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017, 7:00 PM  
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Member Stanislav Moline and Alternate Francie Berger

**ABSENT:** Vice Chairman Chris Todd, David Hurley, Donna Resutek, and Stefanie Cunningham

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Savannah Blantz, Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** NONE

**III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:**

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

**DISCUSSION OF CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC RESOURCE CENTER'S SELF-ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH DEVELOPING A BUSINESS RETENTION AND ATTRACTION STRATEGY TABLED BY CONSENSUS TO THE NEXT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING ON MARCH 8, 2017.**

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Nothing to report.

3. Report: Agricultural Initiatives
  - a. Discussion: Draft Farm Tax Abatement Ordinance

Town Planner, Lisa Houlihan, provided the commission with a draft ordinance. She also provided a chart comparing similar ordinances from Mansfield, North Canaan and Woodstock and a map of Connecticut indicating which towns offered one or more of the three different tax abatement programs enabled by Connecticut statutes. The commission reviewed the types of agricultural activities currently practiced in Ellington and discussed what activities could potentially qualify for tax abatement programs.

**DISCUSSION TABLED BY CONSENSUS TO THE NEXT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING ON MARCH 8, 2017.**

4. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits
  - a. GoLocal – Ellington, CT Audience Review – January 2017 report

The commission reviewed and discussed the GoLocal website audience data for January. The data revealed that number of sessions on the website has increased. The number of businesses that have claimed a microsite remains low and development is needed.

5. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

Nothing to report.

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Nothing to report.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of the January 11, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

**MOVED (MOLINE), SECONDED (BERGER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.**

2. Staff Report:

- a. Announcement: Planning Department/Conservation Commission to be awarded funds through the Department of Agriculture's Farm Viability Grant for consultant services to conduct a Cost of Community Services Study.

Ms. Houlihan informed the commission that \$7,200 of funding is going to be made available to perform a Cost of Community Services Study in Ellington. The study will evaluate the cost of services compared to the revenue generated of the three major land uses in Ellington (industrial/commercial, residential and open space/farmland).

- b. Clean Energy Communities, Donation Ceremony to be held on March 13, 2017, 7pm. Board of Selectmen Meeting, Town Hall Meeting Room.

Ms. Houlihan announced that the Clean Energy Communities public outreach campaign conducted in Ellington from July 2016-December 2016 raised \$1,000 which will be donated to the Ellington Fuel Bank. A formal ceremony will be held on March 13, 2017 at 7pm.

3. Correspondence:

a. CEDAS Academy Webinar Session February 16, 2017

Ms. Houlihan announced that the CEDAS Academy Webinar Session will be held on February 16, 2017 for those who are interested. Ms. Houlihan is scheduled to attend and will provide the commission with feedback about the program at the March meeting.

b. Tolland County Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Showcase Tuesday April 11, 2017

The commission discussed the purpose of the showcase and recalled what regional businesses attended in the past. The commission agreed that the event is geared towards businesses versus civic organizations.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOVED (MOLINE), SECONDED (BERGER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO  
ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:



Savannah Blantz, Recording Clerk