



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017, 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman Chris Todd, Regular Member Donna Resutek and Alternate Stefanie Cunningham

ABSENT: Regular Member David Hurley and Alternate John Behrens

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 Results

BY CONSENSUS TABLE DISCUSSION OF CONNECTICUT ECONOMIC RESOURCE CENTER'S SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS TO THE NEXT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017, AT 7:00PM.

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Town Planner, Lisa Houlihan, stated that the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce cancelled their March meeting. Their next meeting will be on April 25, 2017.

3. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Nothing to report.

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

The commission reviewed the GoLocal Audience Review March 2017 Report. The report revealed that page views increased from last month. Ms. Houlihan announced that the website will be featured in the May edition of Ellington Events.

5. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

a. Discussion: Draft Farm Tax Abatement Ordinance

The commission reviewed a report drafted by Ellington Assessor, Kim Bechard. The report includes a complete list of agricultural properties in Ellington that enjoy PA-490 status and respective loss in tax dollars. The report also provides an overview of the farm equipment and farm building exemption programs and loss in tax revenues, as well as an explanation of tax savings realized by Oakridge Dairy, LLC under these programs.

Seth Bahler of Oakridge Dairy was present to discuss the proposed ordinance with the commission. They discussed supporting a request for abatement under the current program for the capital investment that Oakridge Dairy is spending. Mr. Bahler would need to submit a formal application that outlines his desired tax abatement amount and timeframe.

The commission expressed interested in having Ms. Bechard attend next month's meeting to help them understand the content of her report. They also asked that the First Selectman and/or the Selectman Liaison attend the next Economic Development Commission meeting to discuss the potential application for Oakridge Dairy and the potential new abatement program.

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Ms. Houlihan announced that Luann's Bakery will add more parking spaces in addition to the existing 24 spaces previously approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. She also stated that the construction of the new Dunkin Donuts has begun. Lastly, she announced that within the next month the construction of the assisted living facility is anticipated to begin.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the March 8, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

MOVED (TODD) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 8, 2017 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence:

- a. Connecticut Green Bank letter dated February 2017

The commission reviewed a February 2017 letter that described the recent successes and achievements of the Connecticut Green Bank.

- b. Oakridge Times dated March 2017

The commission read and reviewed the latest edition of the Oakridge Times, a local agricultural newsletter.

- c. CERC Letter addressed to Ellington's Assessor dated March 2017

The commission reviewed a letter addressed to Ms. Bechard from the Connecticut Economic Resource Center that requested her office provide them with various Ellington economic information.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Savannah Blantz, Recording Clerk