STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015, 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman - Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman - Chris Todd, Stanislav Moline (arrived at 7:09pm), Alternate - Donna Resutek and Alternate -Francie Berger

ABSENT: Gilbert Gamboa, David Hurley, and Alternate - Stefanie Cunningham

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: Students from Ellington High School's Contemporary Issues class

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

The Commission acknowledged the students in attendance from Ellington High School.

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Discussion Regarding Future Business Event

   Nothing to report.

   NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

   Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, explained that the Chamber meeting in November was cancelled and that the next meeting is early December. Ms. Houlihan directed attention to an article written in the Hartford Courant acknowledging the Barn Yard, Cold Creek Brewery, and Dymotek for winning awards at the Chamber's Annual Awards Program held October 7, 2015.

   NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

3. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan declared that Bahler Farms closed on October 19, 2015, and directed attention to articles regarding the farmland preservation program posted by the Department of Agriculture, Patch and the Associated Press.

Ms. Houlihan reviewed with the students in attendance the Farmland Preservation Program and Community Farmland Preservation Program process and how it benefits farmers and the Town. Ms. Houlihan explained that Pitney Farms qualified for the Community Farmland Preservation program but the owner declined the offer.

Discussion ensued.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

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

Chairman Kelly reviewed the GoLocal monthly activity report, pointing out the number of hits to the site had not changed much since last month. He acknowledged the challenge of getting the local businesses to join. After reviewing how GoLocal works, Chairman Kelly asked the students in attendance if they would ask their teacher if they could help market GoLocal as a possible class project. He asked that they contact Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, if they could help. The project will include reaching out to local businesses and informing them about GoLocal.

Commissioner Berger announced that the library is holding a mini golf event on Saturday, February 6, 2016. She stated local businesses could sponsor a hole and/or build a course to advertise each business stating it would be a great event for the Commission to promote GoLocal.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

5. Report: Tax Abatement Incentive Programs

Chairman Kelly described to the students what a tax abatement is and how it benefits both the town and businesses.

A student asked what happens if a business were to sell before the agreement expired. Chairman Kelly explained that if a business did not fulfill the terms of agreement they would be responsible for reimbursing the town for the amount defaulted. He stated that it is happening right now with Skip's Septic located at 6 Nutmeg Drive. Ms. Houlihan sent a memo to Maurice Blanchette, First Selectman, reflecting the motion made by the Commission at the last meeting.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Ms. Houlihan explained to the Commission that the regulation amendment to allow brew pubs in industrial zone is scheduled for public hearing at the Planning & Zoning

Commission (PZC) meeting on November 23, 2015. The amendment will allow consumption of beer produced at the facility on-site.

Ms. Houlihan informed the Commission that the proposal for a Dunkin Donuts at 194 Windsorville Road, has been withdrawn. The applicant is considering extensive changes to the proposal and needs more time to reconfigure the plans. She also stated The Barn Yard has been issued a certificate of occupancy and will be holding an open house.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

a. Approval of the October 14, 2015, meeting minutes.

MOVED (RESUTEK), SECONDED (TODD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 14, 2015, AS WRITTEN.

b. Approval of the 2016 meeting schedule.

MOVED (BERGER), SECONDED (MOLINE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE, AS PRESENTED.

c. Correspondence:
   a. Memo to Agency Chairpersons and Department Heads, 2016-2017 Capital Improvements Budget Requests and 2016 Meeting Schedule.
   b. Article from the Hartford Courant regarding the 58th Annual Meeting of Tolland County Chamber of Commerce.

SO NOTED

Ms. Houlihan updated the Commission on the status with the proposed Multi-Family regulation amendment and the assisted living proposal by the Gralia Group for property on West Road.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (RESUTEK), SECONDED (MOLINE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristin Michaud / TMC
Kristin Michaud
Recording Secretary