



# **Economic Development Commission**

**Update to Board of Selectman**

**02/01/2010**

## **Board of Selectman Special Meeting Minutes of 01/12/2010**

“Selectman Blessington said that **Willington seems to have the reputation of being the most business unfriendly Town in the State.** He would like to see improvement in this area. He is not sure what the Board can do. There is a **perception that Willington does not seem to welcome business in town.** First Selectman Mailhos agreed that we should do something. Selectman Millix suggested that First selectman Mailhos facilitate a meeting with Economic Development and Planning and Zoning to come up with some ideas.”

## **Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes of 01/19/2010**

Approve Selectmen goals for 2010

Town Issues:

**“Tackle the perception of Willington being unfriendly to businesses”**

After considering the Board of Selectman's comments and reviewing the last five years of Business activity in the Town of Willington.

The Economic Development Commission respectfully **disagrees** with the following statements;

1. **“Willington seems to have the reputation of being the most business unfriendly Town in the State”**
2. **“perception that Willington does not seem to welcome business in town”**

## **BUSINESSES WELCOMED TO TOWN IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

### **Business Name**

### **Business Activity**

Smoke and Leather

Adult products

Hidden Dragon Karate

Martial Arts

Wizard's Advanced Tattooing

Body Art

DeNuo Day Spa

Personal Care Services

Kids Kingdom Day Care

Child Day Care Facility

ECHN Diagnostics Center

Remote Laboratory Collection Facility

Leaps & Dreams Dance Studio

School of Dance

Andresen Overhead Door & Awning

Overhead Doors & Awnings

JRJ Gas Connections

Propane Gas Products and Refilling Station

## **BUSINESSES WELCOMED TO TOWN IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

**(continued)**

### **Business Name**

### **Business Activity**

Dr. Jennifer Veit

Dr. of Chiropractic Care

Connecticut CrossRoads Realty, LLC

Realty Company

Vector Mortgage Company

Independent Mortgage Service

Several Home Businesses

Consultants, Firearms Repair, Financial Management,  
Travel advisor, Nutrition advisor, Bakery

Curves for Women

Women's Health Improvement

Loves Veterinary Clinic

Pet Medical Care (opening soon)

Wilmington Convenience Store

General grocery items

## **BUSINESSES RELOCATIONS and CLOSINGS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

<b><u>Business Name</u></b>	<b><u>Business Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Disposition</u></b>
DeNuo Day Spa	Personal Care Services	Closed
Connecticut Cross Roads Realty	Realty Broker	Relocated – Stafford
Smoke and Leather	Adult products	Closed
Victoria Station	Home furnishings	Closed
CITGO Gas Station & Garage	Gas Station & Garage	Closed
Daily Grind Café, LLC	Coffee / Lunch	Closed

## BUSINESSES OPPORTUNITIES LOST IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Business Activity</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
ALDI Distribution Center	Food Distribution	South Windsor
Bio-Diesel Processing Facility	Fuel Conversion	Remains at incubator facility – UCONN
Large Box Store Distribution Center	Food other items	Windsor
Big Rig Tractor Facility	FedEx Local Haul provider	Economy - funding unavailable

The number one reason these Businesses did not locate in Willington was a **LACK** of infrastructure (e.g., sufficient water and sewage facilities)

## **BUSINESS EXPANSIONS and PLANNED EXPANSIONS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS**

<b><u>Business Name</u></b>	<b><u>Business Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Disposition</u></b>
Chace Building Supply of Connecticut	Building Supplies	Approved for expansion – however economy has halted expansion
Hidden Dragon Karate	Martial Arts	Moved from RT320 to Phelps Crossing larger facility

## BUSINESSES CONSIDERING LOCATING IN WILLINGTON

<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Business Activity</u>	<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Probability*</u>
Camping World	Camping supplies and vehicles	Discussions continue	30%
Construction Materials Recycling Center Center	Processing Construction material	Discussions continue	60%
IMCORP, Inc.	Underground Utility Location Equipment	Discussions continue	20%
Walgreens Pharmacy	Pharmacy & other products	Discussions continue	20%
	Truck & Auto Travel Center	Discussions continue	75%

\*Probability is based solely upon the opinion of the Economic Development Commission and presumes no approval by other Town Commissions.

The Economic Development Commission would like to know from the Board of Selectman specifically;

Where information supporting the following statements can be obtained?

**“Willington seems to have the reputation of being the most business unfriendly Town in the State”**

**“perception that Willington does not seem to welcome business in town”**

If substantive information is not available. We (the EDC) respectfully request the following statement , **“Tackle the perception of Willington being unfriendly to businesses”**, be deleted from the “Town Issues” section of the Board of Selectman Goals.

# QUESTIONS