

Willington Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes –January 12, 2022

Members In Attendance: Cheryl Mitchell, Matt, Clark, John Guskowski, Mike D’Amato, Richard Maloney, Ralph Tulis (member of public)

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM.

Public Participation

Ralph Tulis had joined the meeting but said he was not necessarily prepared to speak but indicated the property he had spoken about does have a signed contract on it. Mike has met with the prospective buyer.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Maloney made a Motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2021; Cheryl Mitchell seconded; Motion carried

Old Business

Special Development District

Rick was excited to hear that Mike and John presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission and they have it fast-tracked. Exciting time for the town and will give us flexible zoning. Mike has prepared the draft for review by Planning & Zoning for their meeting next week and then it will be scheduled for a hearing and then be sent to CROG for review so a public hearing can be scheduled to get public comments and adopt from there. There were a couple of tweaks from the last time it was presented. There were changes that were made. By next week a final draft will be ready. Rick requested that the final draft be sent along to members of the EDC.

Railroad Project

Rick will defer the Railroad Project but indicated Bill has been busy. Although Bill was not in attendance, he did provide an update: 12/13/2021 meeting with Mr. Desiato – completed and forwarded to G&W Mark O’Kray; 12/20/2021 PDF info update to request from rail for Industrial Property Listing on G&W website – Route 32 property. (pending a listing agreement and moving forward)

CEDAS Certification

Mike indicated that they are finished with the application, and they have all the responses prepared and links completed. Application has been worked on and everything the application requires has been completed and they have obtained a couple of sample applications from towns to see what their applications look like. The only thing that has not been done is that one of the components is an Economic Development self-assessment – which must now be

done through Advanced CT – not worth a lot of points so they are not worried about this. Everything else is pretty much wrapped up and will be submitted Friday.

American Recovery Act

Rick heard back from the Selectmen today and they will be putting Samantha on the agenda for Tuesday for appointment to the committee. So that process is moving quickly and we hope to get some funds out to some of the businesses shortly.

Town Gateways

Mike has indicated that other towns have established inner gateway to create like not necessarily a pocket park but a small garden maintained by the garden club sponsored by a business, so they pay the town and they get a sign that says "Welcome to Willington" and it is just something to show other than just the green metal sign that the state provides and it is a little advertising for the business. (Just a distinction for when you come into Willington when you leave Tolland or Ashford) He feels it is worth a conversation on how Willington can stand out. John mentioned a giant spool of thread on either side of the road. Mike indicated we will see if Tom Buccino has anything in the mill he can lend. Mike will try to identify what options are available and will flush it out and report at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

N/A


Cheryl made a Motion to Adjourn at 6:42 PM; Matt seconded; Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl Mitchell

Economic Development Commission

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