

MINUTES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MADDEN ROOM
SOUTH WINDSOR TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018
TIME: 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairperson David Marsh, Louise Neary, James Murray, Susan Burnham, Joseph Kennedy, William Jodice, Alternate John Mitchell (sat for Paul Burnham), Linda Jeski, and Alternate Victor Dorobantu (sat for Edwina Futtner)

ABSENT: Edwina Futtner, Paul Burnham, Shailesh Verma, and Wayne Kilburn

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chairperson Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- 2. Roll Call:** The above-mentioned members were introduced.
- 3. Public Participation:** Sean Jacobaccio introduced himself to the commission.
- 4. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from Regular Meeting on 4/25/2018:

A ***motion*** to approve the minutes of April 25, 2018 was made by Commissioner S. Burnham and seconded by Commissioner Murray with the following corrections:

Page 2, Item b. Chairperson Marsh should be capitalized

Page 2, Item c. Should state: "...whether the money comes from..."

Page 2, Item f. Should state: "The intern is still working on researching the town's ordinances..."

Page 3, Item 7a. Period should be inserted after "...many businesses and their types"

Motion was approved by majority. Commissioners S. Burnham, Kennedy and Mitchell abstain. Motion passed.

5. Old Business

(a) Economic Development Strategy: Chairperson Marsh met with the Town Manager on May 3rd, along with other individuals, to have a facilitated conversation centered around EDC strategies for South Windsor, only 1/3 of the people that RSVP'd, attended the meeting. Good conversations took place but the output of the meeting hasn't been shared with him yet. He will meet with the Town Manager sometime soon since their schedules haven't allowed for a meeting yet this month. There will be a cultural change in the approach of economic development for the town. The meeting's output will be reviewed and then will be shared with the town council and recommendations for implementation will be made.

(b) Economic Development Commission Brand, Identity, Administration: Chairperson Marsh explained that the Gmail addresses haven't been created yet and that the images still need to be uploaded to the G-Drive. Once the addresses have been created the images will be shared with the commission. Donna Thompson will then send out the minutes to the members with newly created Gmail account for their own email addresses and via the postal service for members without email. Chairperson Marsh will be using his new Gmail account for all EDC related business.

(c) Sustainable CT: Chairperson Marsh attended the kick-off meeting, held on April 30. Attendees reviewed the program and it's intent. There was a decent turnout for the meeting. The town is still in the process of identifying actionable items and the responsible parties. Chairperson Marsh hasn't received an update of that document to identify EDC's participation and responsibilities.

(d) South Windsor Citizen Survey: The Town Manager is still deciding on how to distribute the survey and Chairperson Marsh shared the collective thoughts of the commission with him. Chairperson Marsh hasn't heard back from him yet and asked for a copy before it's distributed.

(e) Town Ordinance Economic Impact Analysis: Chairperson Marsh informed the commission that there has been no update and believes that the intern is no longer working for the town. He believes that there is an interest in having another intern work for the town in the future especially one that is provided at no cost to the town.

(f) Mayor.tv: Chairperson Marsh had no update but confirmed that filming is done and that changes are being made to the preliminary version based on the feedback that was received. The company will be releasing what they have and will make modifications over time. Commissioner Dorobantu asked why it's taking so long for the final edits to be made and Chairperson Marsh replied that he is not sure but that the company may still be seeking financial support from businesses before finishing. Chairperson Marsh will confirm with the Town Manager on its status and request the ability to preview the final version before it goes live.

6. Committee Report(s)

(a) Bylaw Review Committee: Chairperson Marsh informed the commission that there is no update and that Commissioner P. Burnham is in the process of compiling the proposed changes. Once it is ready, it will be distributed by either Donna Thompson or Chairperson Marsh.

(b) Business Community Engagement (Ambassador Program) / Committee: Chairperson Marsh reported that Commissioner P. Burnham still working on this. Commissioner Kennedy attended a Chamber meeting and shared Communications and Member Services Coordinator Robin Breen's contact information with Chairperson Marsh. The Chamber is going through a period of restructuring. The Town Manager and Chairperson Marsh will be meeting with the Chamber to create a stronger public/private partnership. Commissioner Mitchell shared that the Chamber is experiencing a challenging period and that he is the co-chair of Chamber's 50th anniversary celebration in September. Chairperson Marsh would like the partnership to be mutually beneficial.

- 7. New Business:** Chairperson Marsh shared that the Town Manager is in Vegas meeting with various organizations. He has four meetings scheduled with large companies to try and entice them to South Windsor. Mayor Anwar shared with Chairperson Marsh that there is a good chance that at least one of them will come town but they are not sure in what capacity. Chairperson Marsh announced that Phoenix All Star cheerleading's tax abatement has been approved by the Town Council. The council discussed the possibility of requiring companies to purchase an insurance to cover the cost of the abatement in case of default of terms of agreement. Chairperson Marsh doesn't feel this is a way to entice businesses. Commissioner Jodice agrees since no other towns are doing this. Chairperson Marsh believes there already are stipulations that are put on abatements, and that it's not necessary to add more. The commission could send a letter of disagreement if a formal conversation evolves around the topic. Commissioner Jeski, as Board of Assessment Appeals member, believes that members of all commissions need to be aware of businesses afforded abatement and their terms to prevent further allowances. This information would help to create a more complete picture of a business and the impacts of abatement and allowances to the town.

8. Communications and Remarks

(a) Report from David Marsh, Chairperson: Chairperson Marsh reported that there was an open house for Quantum and that very few vendors attended. The impact and local opportunities were discussed.

More meetings will be held to help businesses to better understand what the benefits would be to participation. Carla's Pasta would be a key contributor, but Quantum is still looking for other participants. West Hartford is currently running a residential pilot program. Commissioner Neary suggested that the schools take part and Chairperson Marsh responded that he is not sure if they can and that contracts may need to be looked at.

9. General Discussion

Next Meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madden Room.

Commissioner Kennedy introduced Sean Jacobaccio, who came to approach Parks and Recreation to try and spruce up and better utilize Linear Park on Vibert Road. The park has been around for about 20 years and could become a very nice destination for residents. Mr. Jacobaccio is interested in securing resources and groups to make the improvements. Commissioner Neary asked about the launch for search and rescue and Mr. Jacobaccio confirmed that the SWPD does have a boat but depending on the situation it, may be launched from other locations. Commissioner Mitchell believes this is a great idea and that the park is the best and most hidden feature of the town, and as mayor had hoped for increased recreational use of the river front. Commissioner Mitchell warned him to be careful of any capital investments that are made. Mr. Jacobaccio stated that there are 6 acres of town owned land, with public road provides access, and a walking trail that goes to East Windsor. Commissioner Kennedy suggested that measures be taken to increase security and Mr. Jacobaccio proposed installing concrete benches, made from town owned molds, to prevent vandalism and loss from flood. Chairperson Marsh believes the project would need lots of planning to see if it is feasible and asked Mr. Jacobaccio if he would like the commission to provide a letter of support. Mr. Jacobaccio stated that a letter would be fantastic. He envisions having a rowing club, or a canoe club at SWHS, similar to programs in Glastonbury. Mr. Jacobaccio will come before the commission once something more substantial is developed. Chairperson Marsh requested that he communicate with the commission through Commissioner Kennedy once he's ready to present the ideas. Commissioner Mitchell suggests making sure there are safeguards are in place to maintain the cleanliness of the river.

Commissioner Jeski announced that Planning and Zoning passed the application for the winery at Foster Farms. Chairperson Marsh asked if a change also needs to be made to the ordinances to allow farm based wineries or breweries. He will research this.

- 10. Adjournment:** A *motion* to adjourn at 8:27pm was made by Commissioner Neary and *seconded* by Commissioner Mitchell and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Potter
Clerk