

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014

Approved

Present: Chairman R. Valentine, Members, J. Coburn, B. Donovan, E. Gallagher, A. Letizio, M. Oldenburg, S. Wrenn (8:16), P. Gosselin

Admin Staff: L. Scott

Excused: D. Connolly, S. Denopoulos

Chairman R. Valentine opened the meeting at 7:47 A.M.

A. Letizio motioned to reconsider a vote of Dec. 13 to approve the minutes of November 8, 2013, P. Gosselin seconded. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Ed abstaining.

Ralph led a discussion about clarifying the minutes to more accurately record the November 8 discussion and vote about the sale of Tax Parcel 20D-900. Motion by Al seconded by Paul to amend the minutes to read:

“Discussion of upcoming sale of town property 20D-900. The Town could realize more money if the parcel was re-zoned from rural to commercial before it was sold, given its location on Route 111. 20D-900 is a very small parcel, but if it was packaged with 20D-1000 to the west and a portion of 20D-800 to the east, the Town could realize a bigger return on these pieces of land which are just sitting around on the Town’s balance sheet.

VOTED: On a motion made (B. Breton) and seconded (B Donovan) the committee approved requesting the consideration of rezoning parcels 20D-800, 20D-900 and 20D-1000. 7-1-1 (J. Coburn Nay, S. Wrenn abstained). Further discussion centered on a suggestion that all three parcels, or a portion thereof, be offered for sale. No vote was taken”

TRC update- Jim Coburn had nothing to report.

Planning Board update- Laura Scott said they are finalizing the 2013 warrant, and there will be a meeting on the 22nd to define the 2014 work list. Ralph suggested that the PB consider rezoning 20D-800, 20D-900, and 20D 1000 as well as revisit the owner request to rezone certain parcels at the intersection of Routes 111 and 128. It was also suggested that the Land Use Sub Committee start looking at these parcels and report recommendations to the EDC, so that input could be provided to the PB.

Board of Selectman update-Al Letizio reminded the EDC that the BoS will be reviewing the budget and all Warrant articles at the Monday, Jan. 13 meeting. Ralph will attend to field any potential questions about the Water Study Warrant Article.

Salem Chamber of Commerce update- Bev Donovan reminded the EDC about a Business after Hours on Jan .15th at the Colosseum. On April 17, The Chamber will be hosting the Annual Economic Development Summit at 7:30 AM with the main presentation related to Broadband. Infrastructure Sub-Committee please take note. A program will take place on Feb.6: Coffee, Commerce and Community, in Windham. The Town Administrator, Superintendent of Schools and Community Development Director of Windham will each give an update of current events. Members are encouraged to help with attendance by talking up this event.

Communications update- Al Letizio said weekly articles would continue now that the holidays are over, focus should be on the Water Study Warrant Article. Motion by S. Wrenn, second by Paul to submit a proposal of our water study to Rockingham County. Motion passed 7-0.

Infrastructure update-Ralph Valentine said the focus between now and voting day would be to educate the voters on water study. A TV interview will be scheduled with Cable, DES will be invited. L. Scott suggested we offer to present information at any upcoming informational meetings, such as one held annually by the Windham Democratic Party. Ralph will follow up. Laura made the point we can supply material at the deliberative sessions and town meeting but cannot staff an informational table. Ralph said he would check this requirement.

Strategic Plan- R. Valentine announced that Ed Gallagher would chair the Strategic Plan Sub-Committee. Ed suggested that we focus on four areas. 1. Assessment, 2. Obtain input. 3. How does the plan align with other Town initiatives ? and 4. How to make our document a living and breathing document. Focus on quality of life in Windham. Call for Members: Jim Coburn to be a member while stepping down from the land use sub- committee. A. Letizio and M. Oldenburg requested to be ad -hoc members as well. Members not attending today would be polled to join the sub-committee.

CDD update- Laura Scott said Business visits will continue and have been greatly accepted. There will be a four part business seminar one each month over four months. Welcome to Windham packet will continue with new town materials to be available on 4/1. Expect this new packet will deliver a positive message for the town.

Jim Coburn motioned to adjourn and Paul Gosselin seconded. Adjourn vote 7-0.