

Windham Economic Development Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2011

Present: Ralph Valentine , Chairman; Jay Yennaco, Vice Chair ; Amy M. Spencer, Secretary;  
Sally D'Angelo, Paul Gosselin, Bob Young, Bev Donovan, Phil LoChiatto (arrived 7:52)

Absent: Sy Wrenn

Excused: Diane Wasilisian

Also in attendance: Laura Scott, Community Development Director,

Chairman Valentine called meeting to order at 7:38am

CDD Updates, Laura Scott,

Business Education Series is going extremely well. Breath of Sun Event was well attended and filled to capacity. Diane's upcoming event at the WHS is expected to be equally well attended.

Surplus Land Discussion

Discussion about best purposes for 16 Roulston Road and making a recommendation to the Selectmen regarding this particular parcel of land. Informing them that we feel that it should be considered for rezoning and the town should not purchase it.

Motion to recommend to the Selectmen that the town does not purchase the parcel made by Bev Donovan, Seconded by Paul Gosselin. Passed 8.0.0

Motion to recommend to the Planning Board to consider rezoning the parcel to non-residential in order to better fit the neighborhood made by Bev Donovan, Seconded by Paul Gosselin.

Phil LoChiatto arrived at 7:52am

Passed 8.0.1 Phil LoChiatto abstained

Marketing Updates:

Web Site Status:

Laura has been working diligently to complete the final updates and changes. She will be proposing an out-of-the-box finance strategy to assist in funding the administrative work on the site. This will be done by selling ad space to Windham Businesses for one month slots for \$150.00 to cover these administrative costs for Admin Internet.

Open House on the 16th at Party Rental 12:30

Go Green Fair 9-3 Go Green Fair at WHS on the 16th

Mini-Dog-Fair at Griffin Park on the 9th 9-12

On April 18th at the Selectmen's Meeting the Wall Street Committee will be doing their final presentation.

Wall Street/111 Corridor Study. Big picture concept being presented to Planning Board on May 11th in a workshop forum. Highly recommended for the members of the business community to attend this meeting.

April 27th Planning Board Meeting.

The town hired a consultant and entered into a \$5,000 contract to begin Architectural Design Review to assist with better defining zoning standards last year. The Planning Board is planning a workshop to discuss these topics without the input of the consultant. Discussion initiated by Paul that WEDC use the information created by the consultant even if the Planning Board does not and then make recommendations based on our interpretation of the information. Advocating for positive and appropriate economic development that is not cost prohibitive to developers. Phil recommends that we direct a correspondence towards the Planning Board suggesting that the consultant be involved from the beginning of this process. Ralph discussed putting together a letter stating our enthusiasm about the opportunity to use the wisdom and information of the previously hired and paid for consultant combined with the work of the Planning Board and public.

Motion made by Paul Gosselin that Ralph send out this letter to the Chairmen of the Planning Board to initiate a conversation. Second by Al Letizio. Discussion. Bob Young feels that we have been reactionary to the information that Laura has provided to us. Bob's perception of the letter is of an offer of support and help. He supports the motion. Laura asked if the community survey piece will be included in this collaborative correspondence. Motion amended to include our request to be included as part of the Planning Boards work in interpreting our community development survey. Passed 9.1.0

Jay Yennaco left at 8:42.

Chairman Updates

Expiring Membership terms were discussed. Candidates interested in renewing/continuing their term will follow due process.

Ralph began discussion about our input on plans. Inquiring if we are interested in developing a subcommittee. Laura mentioned that we can be part of the Design Review Committee if it becomes part of our master plan to do so. Paul feels as though it would be a positive step to move in this direction to act as an advocate for businesses and developers. Paul suggested that this subcommittee be in charge of reviewing and attending TRC Agendas and meetings. Discussion about appointing a person to review both TRC and Agendas for ZBA and Planning Board.

Motion made by Bob Young to appoint Paul Gosselin to be the point of contact regarding review of information provided by the Technical Review Committee. Second by Phil LoChiatto.  
Passed 7.0.1

Motion made by Bob Young. Second by Bev Donovan to appoint Paul Gosselin as our point person to review ZBA and Planning Board Agendas. Passed 7.0.1

Ralph initiated a discussion regarding the Green Sprouts Building. Laura stated that what was agreed to by the Planning Board was not what was built. Planning Board approved a specific rendering of the plans. The developer did not adhere to the approved plans.

Phil LoChiatto volunteered to replace the opening left by Charlie on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee. We are moving Strategic Plan to the top of next months agenda and using the month of April to prepare our comments/suggestions for the next meeting.

Phil LoChiatto left at 9:18.

Other Business

Bev Donovan updated the committee about upcoming events.

Chamber Business After Hours and annual meeting at the Used Book SuperStore in Salem on 20th of April.

May 3rd, Economic Development Symposium 7:30am Castleton.

May 18th Taste of Salem at Atkinson Country Club

May 23rd Chamber Gold Tournament at Windham Country Club

Helping Hands Mom Prom at Brookstone on May 13th. \$40.00

Career day May 26th at WHS.

Motion to adjourn Paul Gosselin, Second by Al Letizio 6.0.0

Submitted by Amy Spencer, WEDC Secretary