



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Windham Economic Development Committee

WEDC

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 14, 2014

Present: Chairman R. Valentine, Members: D. Connolly, S. Denopolis, B. Donovan, A. Letizio,

Excused: J. Colburn, E. Gallagher, M. Oldenberg

Resigned: P. Gosselin

Absent: B. Breton

Admin Staff: L. Scott

Chairman Valentine opened the meeting at 7:44am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Web Site Presentation: Mr. Scott Baetz of AdminInternet addressed the Committee about upcoming changes to the Community Development web site. He and Ms. Scott underscored the importance of the goal of the site – to identify businesses in the town and business events that are not elsewhere listed on town web sites. There are approximately 10,000 visitors each month, with the business directory and event calendar being the most frequently visited sections of the site. There was discussion about the prominence of the site's connection to the town and also the prominence of the monthly business sponsor for the site. Discussion continued about the use of people pictures vs building pictures and guest Mr. J. Sycamore suggested that perhaps businesses under Planning Board review could rotate through the photographs as well, if designated as "concept". Following both Mr. Baetz' and Chairman Valentine's suggestions, the Committee agreed to wait to suggest further changes until after current changes are reviewed.

VOTED: On motion made (A. Letizio) and seconded (S. Denopolis), the minutes of the February 14th meeting were approved with some spelling corrections. 4-0-1 (D. Connolly abstaining.)

Chairman Valentine announced that P. Gosselin has resigned since being elected to serve on the Planning Board. D. Connolly's term will expire in June and she will not be renewing. M. Oldenberg's term also expires in June but is expected to renew. Chairman Valentine noted two residents who have expressed an interest in joining the committee and urged Mr. Letizio to have the BOS expedite appointments to the Committee as work is not progressing as easily as with a full committee.

TRC: Ms. Scott reported on three buildings that were reviewed and two other minor renovations being reviewed, all of which were supported by the WEDC.



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Planning Board – Ms. Scott identified the PB is reorganizing following town elections and will appoint a new liaison to the WEDC. Zoning maps will also be redrawn following approved articles. The PB is currently working on developing topics for the 2015 town meeting.

BOS – Mr. Letizio is working with the BOS to review all town communications and general digital presence.

Chamber – Ms. Donovan reviewed current activities and underscored the importance of the upcoming April breakfast to be held at Castleton with a theme of technology. The Pillar awards will be given during this event. She also requested attendance at the Derry regional Economic Development round table. To accommodate this important regional initiative, Chairman Valentine suggested that the next WEDC meeting be moved to Thursday, April 10 so members could attend the April 11th meeting in Derry. All agreed.

Subcommittee updates:

Communications – Mr. Letizio offered to have the Communications Committee review the new web site updates and also review the new marketing materials which the Community Development Department will be receiving.

Land Use – Ms. Donovan said that the subcommittee needs to be refreshed with new WEDC members. She also suggested that the SAU parcels previously discussed should be reintroduced to the Planning Board as possible re-zoned parcels with a vision for use. Discussion ensued about gathering public input, drawing an accurate map of the parcels in question and identifying both ownership and zoning, and creating a vision for the possible future use of the land. Ms. Donovan will draw up the map. There was also discussion of a regional meeting with Derry and Plaistow about future water needs. A regional water study is being considered which would benefit all.

Infrastructure – Mr. Valentine noted that the request for funds to conduct a water study for the town was not passed at the recent elections, but indicated the subcommittee will regroup and discuss next steps.

Community Development – Ms. Scott highlighted a number of upcoming and recently concluded seminars and programs and also the initiation of a Master Planning Steering Committee to prioritize and implement phase 2 of the Town's Master Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04am.