

Windham Economic Development Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
May 12th, 2017

Present:

Ed Gallagher – Chair
Gary Garfield – Vice Chair
Joel Desilets – BOS Representative
Mike Oldenburg
Kristi St. Laurent – Planning Board Representative
Melissa Magnuson
Bruce Richardson
George Fredette – arrived 8:20am
Lisa Walker, Donna Morris excused

Rex Norman – Community Development Director

7:42am – meeting called to order followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Joel Desilets with second by Melissa Magnuson to approve the minutes of January 13th, 2017. Motion passed 6-0-1, Mr. Richardson abstained due to not being present at the meeting.

Motion made by Joel Desilets with second by Gary Garfield to approve the minutes of April 14th, 2017. Motion passed 4-0-3; with M. Magnuson, M. Oldenburg and B. Richardson abstaining due to not being present at the meeting.

WEDC Membership Interest

There are two expiring terms on the WEDC.

Mr. Norman reported that there are at least two people that have expressed interest in joining the WEDC. Interviews with the BOS are being set up.

Mr. Gallagher reported that his term is up in June, and that with work commitments he will not be seeking reappointment.

Master Plan Water Chapter update –

This Planning Board subcommittee has not met yet, membership is still being established

Mr. Garfield said as soon as it gets up and running, he will share the work of the WEDC Infrastructure subcommittee to prevent duplication of efforts.

The subcommittee will now be determining if there should be a separate chapter, if it should be included as a distinct section of the Resources chapter or it should be covered in all relevant chapters (ie: housing, economic, resources etc).

Subcommittee Updates

Infrastructure Update –

Mr. Garfield is working with Mr. Norman on an infrastructure map for the town. Discussed getting town input again on water as we have been through a drought, revisit survey. WEDC survey had 500+ respondents, but was several years ago. It may be time to do it again.

Pennichuck and Manchester Water Works are both potential suppliers, the route to get it to Windham and the money to get it to Windham are the stumbling blocks.

Benefit of municipal water would be as a response to ground water contaminants when/if discovered.

For natural gas supply, the focus has been more on Pelham – that is the path Liberty Utilities will be traveling. There are two phases of the roll-out, which are not known to Windham yet. Mr. Norman was asked to reach out to Liberty Utilities to find out any available details.

Communications Update –

No update.

Land Use –

The work towards rezoning and suggestions for use of the three parcels along Rt. 111 by the old Police Station is waylaid in that the school now has a five year lease. In time for reconsideration of the lease in the future, it would be helpful to the discussion to show potential loss of revenue and commercial service to the residents and may make spending the money to build permanent place for school activities; to spend a little as a town to realize a higher and better utility of the Rt. 111 frontage.

Community Development Department -

Mr. Norman gave a brief update of his activities – most significantly: mapping undeveloped or underdeveloped commercial properties.

He also reported that the company for the new Town website was in yesterday to start design work. The new site could be a good venue for survey activity.

Ground breaking of Gateway Project will likely be in June, invitation to the Governor and will work with his schedule. Mr. Norman will be sure to invite WEDC members.

Selectmen Update –

Will be following up with Liberty Utilities about bringing natural gas in for commercial and residential use.

The regular ex officio member is Joel Desilets, the alternate will be whomever can make the meeting; most likely Jennifer Simmons, but it could be any of the others.

General Discussion – sub/committee size and quorum, benefits of alternate members; calling in.

Next meeting – June 9th, 2017 at 7:30am

Motion by Joel Desilets, second by Melissa Magnuson, to adjourn at 8:52am.