

**CHESHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014 AT 7:30 A.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207/209**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman David Pelletier, Dan O’Connell, Lori Rusnack, Steve Sidoruk, William Stanley, Ray Voelker and Bob deJongh, Inland / Wetland Commission Liaison

Commissioner Absent:

Michael Ecke

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator; Kelly Lenz, School Business Partnership Coordinator

Others Present:

Arthur Hostage, former Economic Development Commissioner and David Schrumm, Town Council Liaison and Dr. Christopher Ball of Quinnipiac University

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pelletier called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting October 21, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Stanley that the minutes from the October 21, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission be accepted as submitted. **SECONDED** by Mr. O’Connell.

The motion passed unanimously by all present.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Economic Development Commission.

VII. BUSINESS

A) Discussion with Professor Christopher Ball of Quinnipiac University

Mr. deJongh introduced Professor Ball, who proceeded to provide the EDC with a growth forecast for the global economy. Dr. Ball said there are many “ifs” in his outlook, including the price of oil and political stability and conflicts in various regions such as the Middle East. He addressed many questions for the commission from the impact of monetary policy, availability of food and training and education necessary to meet future needs of employers.

B) Speakers for Future Meetings

Commissioners talked about inviting representative(s) of Conn-Tech or Paws Pet Resort to the December meeting of the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Sitko noted that Mr. Mead, Facility Vice President of Macy’s Logistics will be attending the January 2015 meeting to make up for missing the October Economic Development Commission meeting.

C) Business Appreciation Day

Mr. Sitko noted that the next Business Appreciation Day is scheduled for June 2015 and has been held at Elim Park since 2004. Unfortunately, the dining area at Elim Park is scheduled for renovation and will not be available at that time to handle the event. Mr. Sitko stated that he was planning to contact Lane Construction about possibly holding the event at their facility. Otherwise, Business Appreciation Day may have to be postponed until later in 2015 or in 2016.

D) C-PACE

Mr. Sitko stated that a breakfast meeting is scheduled for December 11th at 8 am at Paul's Restaurant with commercial, industrial and non-profit property owners to discuss the C-Pace program. Representatives of Green Bank are scheduled to make the presentation to the attendees.

E) Program with Manufacturers and Cheshire Public Schools

Chairman Pelletier stated that he, Mr. Sitko and Mr. O'Connell will be meeting with Kelly Lenz after this morning's Economic Development Commission meeting to continue the discussion about linking manufacturers with public school students and to review some of the points that Mr. O'Connell mentioned during the October Economic Development Commission meeting. All commissioners are welcome stick around and join the discussion.

F) Bedding Plant Capital of CT

Mr. Sitko provide a list of options that the Economic Development Commission and Town Beautification Committee has come up with on how to do more to expand and make a better use of the Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut designation that Cheshire has. The list was already forwarded to Town Manager Milone, who is interested in a number of suggestions including a video on the Town's website and noting the Bedding Plant designation in press releases and stationery for the Town of Cheshire.

G) Liaison Reports

Mr. deJongh, Liaison of the Inland / Wetland Commission was present and reported to the Commission that application activity has been relatively quiet.

Mr. Schrumm, Liaison of the Town Council was present to report to the Commission about town council activity, including the linear trail.

H) Coordinator's Report

Mr. Sitko stated that VR Osteria (formerly Luca) opened recently and seems to be doing quite well. He added that the new owner of the restaurant has put a lot of money into the building, both inside and out.

Wayback Burgers held a Grand Opening celebration the weekend of October 24th.

The Outlets at Cheshire has had it's opening pushed back to the Spring of 2016 instead of the Fall of 2015. Construction is expected to begin this Winter/Next Spring. All local permits have been received for this project, including the Water Pollution Control

Authority, Inland / Wetlands and Watercourse Commission and Planning & Zoning final site plan approval. Mr. Voelker, Town Planner, reported in October that the remaining permits to start this project are from the Connecticut Office of State Traffic Administration, two environmental permits; one from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Water Quality Division and the other is from the Army Corps regarding dredged or fill material into watercourses and federally defined wetlands.

Mr. Sitko provided an update on the CT Rides program for commuters, especially in the north end of Cheshire. He also noted that an informational session will be held on January 21st regarding CTfastrak.

I) Other

No additional business was discussed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Stanley to adjourned the November 18th meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 8:31 a.m.; **SECONDED** by Mr. Sidoruk.

The motion passed unanimously by all present.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary