

Woodstock Economic Development Commission

September 7, 2017 Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Charlie Kimbell, Gail Childs, Keith Anderson, Joe Dinatale, Jason Merrill, Michael Malik

BY PHONE: Mica Seely, Barry Milstone

GUESTS: Beth Finlayson, Bob Haynes, Steve D'Agostino, Mary Riley

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS – NONE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2017 were approved on a motion of Joe Dinatale, second by Michael Malik.

The minutes of the offsite had been distributed via email to all EDC members but were not presented for a vote for approval.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Commercial Spaces. There was a brief summary by Mica, Joe, Gail and Michael but no progress made in August. Owners of properties are not willing to move on rental costs and second floor locations are not being considered.
- b. Website – Keith Anderson and the joint website management group will meet with Origin next Monday about launching the sight.
- c. Other – streetscapes - The Commercial Spaces subcommittee has focused on improving the streetscape to make the central business district more attractive to potential retail tenants. Met with 3 landscape architects to get their ideas on what they might consider doing to improve the area. The committee agreed to make a recommendation on a forward plan at the next EDC meeting in October.
Gail Childs removed herself from the streetscape committee, she was encouraged to reconsider.

V. GMEDC

Bob Haynes, Executive Director of Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation outlined possibilities to work with the EDC to collaborate and assist with the pending Woodstock Loan Program.

There are 30 towns in the area covered by GMEDS 17 of these towns support GMEDC.

GMEDC currently manages Hartford's Revolving Loan Fund.

Mr. Haynes described some business projects that have been accomplished through long term loans for development and to help business grow. He described how the GMEDC helped businesses through land purchase and building renovation.

GMEDC manages the process for Brownfield Remediation and facilitates EPA Grant funding.

VEDA and the Small Business Administration provide good assistance with the coordination with GMEDC

Mr. Haynes noted the East End represents an excellent opportunity for the properties from POMA to the Gerrish Property. A lot can be done cooperatively with GMEDC. Woodstock would be recommended and recruitment for businesses to locate in Woodstock are examples of assistance from GMEDC.

VI. OFFSITE UPDATE

Results of the offsite meeting recommends sub committees be formalized with a chair. Notes from the meeting were circulated to members and the three members not present were asked to consider their thoughts that might not have been included in the list of things to Keep Doing, Stop Doing and Start Doing. The EDC will prioritize the ideas at the next meeting in October.

Commissioners present agreed the sub committees need better structure.

The Commission discussed the need of greater administrative support to accomplish its goals. No action was taken.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There will be a Wireless Woodstock update at the meeting next month.

Applications for grants are due on September 22nd for consideration in the next round.

The Optimist Center had a successful opening and is up and running well.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.