

COVENTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2016, Conference Room B

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:10PM. Members present were Sondra Stave, Bill Jobbagy, Mark Lavitt, Carol Polsky, Alex Konigsberg and Dick Giggey. Sam Belsito and Barbara Barry were absent (unexcused) and Tim Liptrap was absent (excused). Staff present were John Elsesser and Eric Trott.

A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Mark to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2016 meeting. The motion, with no corrections, was approved by all in attendance except Dick Giggey who abstained.

Sondra reported that the Library Expansion Committee is still discussing the plans with the Town Council. There is a question of building ownership if the plans proceed. Eric reported that the P&ZC has reviewed and approved the parking plans for the new facility.

Carol offered some ideas for future consideration regarding assisting businesses with business plans and access to funding. Also the availability of jobs and job training. Eric also offered attainable housing as an item for future discussion.

Eric reported that the Farmers Market committee is working diligently toward a June 5th opening. He also mentioned that an events calendar is in process, and that a volunteer forum is planned for next week.

Eric reported that the EDC website has been updated to insure all information is current and accurate including the brochure, new business primer, etc.

The Business Survey questions that the EDC has been working was presented and approved. The survey will be offered to local businesses by Survey Monkey and other means. The questions are targeted at understand business needs and future plans so the EDC can prepare programs in response to the survey. The next small business forum will evolve from this survey.

Eric mentioned that CERC is offering an EDC self-assessment program. He will send out results from other towns, and the EDC will decide whether to take advantage of this program.

Eric attended a meeting regarding the transportation study for Rts 44 and 195 to UConn. Various options for multi-mode transportation will be discussed and he will keep us informed.

An informal meeting was held 3/21 regarding the Route 31 curve project which will start April 4th. The DOT consultants could not attend so the meeting was postponed until 3/28 at 9:00 am in the annex.

Discussions on local business links to the Farmers Market will continue in earnest after the market opens.

COVENTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
3/24/2016- Page 2 of 2

Eric reported that discussions continue at Probate Court over the Caprilands estate. The town supports the adaptive re-use of the property, but the owners have done little over many years.

John reported that road construction on Route 31 will commence April 4th. Some off-road work has been done. The project will begin at Lake Street and continue to the First Church. Sewer work will be first.

Some work is continuing at the Tracy Mill building, CT Landmarks new barn project is still in process. The Lake/Cross Street road project will be out to bid soon.

A motion was made at 8:40 to adjourn by Dick and seconded by Alex.

The next meeting is April 28, 2016 in the Town Hall conference room B.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Jobbagy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "J".

Bill Jobbagy
Vice-Chair