

**Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2016  
"Subject to Approval"**

**1. Call to Order**

Kris Barnett, Vice-Chair, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:31 a.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2016 in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. The following members were also present: David Balboni, Carolyn Bligh, James Devivo and Chuck Minor. Also in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services and other interested parties.

**2. Review of the minutes – June 9, 2016**

*Commissioner Bligh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2016. Commissioner Devivo seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

**3. Town Updates: Tom Cooke**

Mr. Cooke updated Commission members on the following items:

- Progress of The Hartford building
  - Finalizing proposals to the Zoning Commission and Planning Commission
  - Sewer allocations
- Tariffville Water District water tank replacement
- CREC Economic 101 Program
- Eversource moving out of Simsbury
- Ethel Walker School new administration
- First Selectman visiting businesses in West Simsbury
- First Selectman met with the Volunteer Ambulance on increased calls/services
- First Selectman visits with Real Estate groups
- New Deputy Director position to be hired

**• Charter Revision Updates**

Mr. Cooke stated that the final meeting was held and the Charter Revision Commission has changed their recommendation from elimination of the Economic Development Commission from the Charter. He noted that they have amended the Charter to provide that the Economic Development Commission will be created by Ordinance by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen would have authority to determine the terms of the membership, goals and objectives of the

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Commission and the number of members. If the Board of Selectmen approves this recommendation, Mr. Cooke stated that this will then go to referendum in November.

Mr. Cooke noted that the Board of Selectmen voted six of seven to send the Charter Revision recommendations to referendum. The recommendations in November include:

- Form of government
- EDC Change
- Removal of the Human Rights Commission
- Gender Neutrality in the Charter
- Open Space Committee
- Keep Cultural in Parks & Recreation
- Technical changes to the Town budget

Commission members asked questions to Mr. Cooke that included:

- Dyno Nobel layoff
- Joint meetings with the Silverman Group
- Quarterly vacancy report for Apartments in Town

Mr. Cooke noted that he distributed information on CT fastrak and Metro Hartford Progress Points to Commission members.

**4. Discussion on EDC Goals and Objectives for the next Fiscal Year**

- Review Marketing Study

Vice Chair Barnett discussed the Marketing Study and what they are looking for the Economic Development Commission.

- Review EDC Task Force recommendations

Mr. Cooke and members discussed some of their ideas they have for the Economic Development Commission going forward and what value members can bring to the Town.

Vice Chair Barnett asked members to send ideas to Mr. Cooke on what value the Economic Development Commission members can bring to the Town.

**5. Old/New Business**

No items discussed.

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87 **6. Adjournment**

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89 *Commissioner Bligh made a motion for approval for adjournment at 8:37a.m. Commissioner*  
90 *Devivo seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

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93 Respectfully submitted,

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95 Leslie Brigham

96 Commission Clerk