

Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2016
“Subject to Approval”

1. Call to Order

Kris Barnett, Vice-Chair, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 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, Lou George and Allan Raphael. Also in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services and other interested parties.

2. Approval of the minutes – August 11, 2016

Commissioner Balboni made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2016. Commissioner Raphael seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Approval of meeting schedule for 2017

Commissioner Raphael made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2017 for the Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Balboni seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Updates: Tom Cooke

- Update on current projects

Mr. Cooke updated Commission members on the following items:

- Safe Wise – Simsbury is one of the top 20 safest communities in Connecticut.
- Avon Water Company merged with Connecticut Water Service, affecting some Simsbury residents.
- Small Business Association program for Economic Injury Disaster as a result of drought this year.

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- A number of ribbon cutting ceremonies:
 - Tariffville Water Storage Tank
 - Sabor Olive Oil Company
 - Best Cleaners
- Simsbury Library new business Resource person.
 - Grant writing program on October 17th
 - Creating business nights on Wednesday, October 26th
- Silverman Group working on getting documents before the Zoning and Planning Commissions to break ground in the Spring.
- First Selectman's report

Commissioner Balboni questioned Mr. Cooke regarding the Charter Revision Commission vote on Town Manager in the upcoming election and what the process will be if approved.

Mr. Cooke discussed what he believes the transition would be if the Town Manager was passed. Mr. Cooke also noted that a news announcement has been posted on the Town's website explaining the upcoming election questions.

Other items discussed by Mr. Cooke and Commission members were:

- Town's assessment scheduled for 2017 and the process that has already started.
- St. Mary's building addition

5. Reports: FVVA; SMSP

Mr. Cooke noted that Nancy Anstey was unable to attend this meeting but has distributed what is currently happening for the FVVA. Items included in the handout are:

- Acquisition of new member and creation of 2017 Guide to CT's Farmington Valley
- FVVA's 3rd Annual "EF-VEE" award survey was completed and is available on their Facebook page.
- Continuing April bus tour
- Lisa Gray, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce continue to meet
- Promotional emphasis – TMMF, Women's Arts & Crafts Fair, Simsbury Summer Theater
- Working closely with Simsbury Mainstreet Partnership
- 2017 Promotional Emphasis – The Simsbury Triathlon scheduled for May 21st.
- FVVA Menu Guide
- 9th Annual Haunted Miniature Golf fundraiser opens on October 20th
- Regional Tourism update – working out strategies

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Ms. Sarah Nielson, SMSP, discussed the following items:

- Ribbon cutting ceremonies
- New SMSP Board members
- Grand Opening Table 570 early November
- SMSP 3rd Small Business Saturday
- November 25th and 26th Black Friday, Small Business Saturday. Small businesses in Simsbury offer \$50 gift cards for \$40
- Re-branding of Simsbury is currently on hold due to funding
- SMSP and Simsbury Public Library announcing applying for National License for special event to do an Innovation event sometime in April

Mr. Cooke noted that the Solar Farm is waiting for State approval.

6. Photo Contest

Commissioner Raphael made a motion to take the selections, that have been chosen, to the Board of Selectmen to vote on the finalists Commissioner George seconded the motion. Commissioner Balboni abstained. The motion passed.

7. Old/New Business

Commissioner Devivo discussed the submission from Commission members on their view of the potential future role of the Economic Development Commission and what their particular interests were.

Chairman Barnett noted that she has only received from three people and requested the submission from all members. She noted that she has reached out to the Democratic and Republican Town committee chair and discussed the positions to be filled on the Economic Development Commission.

Chairman Barnett suggested having the next meeting be a working meeting to discuss what the Economic Development Commission mission is for 2017, what are goals are and what the Commission would like to accomplish.

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130 **8. Adjournment**

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132 *Commissioner George made a motion for approval for adjournment at 8:15a.m.*

133 *Commissioner Devivo seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

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136 Respectfully submitted,

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138 Leslie Brigham

139 Commission Clerk