

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

1. Call to Order

Mark Deming, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:35 a.m. on Thursday, February 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, Kristen Barnett, Carolyn Bligh, James Devivo, Leo George, Chuck Minor and Allan Raphael. Also in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works, Richard Bazzano, Computer Manager, James Rabbitt, Director of Community Planning and Development and other interested parties.

2. Review of the minutes – January 14, 2016

Commissioner Raphael made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2016. Commissioner Barnett seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Reports: FVVA; SMSP

In Nancy Anstey absence, Chair, Mark Deming read the FVVA report into the record. The report included the following items:

- The FVVA is finalizing their plans for their spring lecture and Bus Tour. Lucianne Lavin will be speaking at the Simsbury Historical Society's Ellsworth Center on April 28th at 7:00 p.m. and the Bus Tour will take place on Saturday, April 30th.
- FVVA has kicked off their Membership Campaign and have almost completed their 2016 Guide Distribution.
- Posters and rack cards have been finalized for the Try-Simsbury Meadows and Mountain Adventure Triathlon and she will have copies next month.

Ms. Sarah Nielson, Simsbury Main Street Partnership, updated and discussed the following items:

- Continuing business visitations with First Selectman and her office
- Simsmore Square owners contribution to the Town and renovations to their property
- Working on the job matching with the Teen Center Advisory Board at the Simsbury Public Library
- The 2nd Annual Innovation Fair to be held on April 30th
- The Grant for preservation for Parking Study has been received for \$10,000
- Farmers Market is under discussion on whether to continue or to revamp due to competition from other towns.
- Mr. Steven Antonio renovating building on Hopmeadow and adding new business.

**Economic Development Commission – Subject to Approval
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2016**

6. Simsbury Meadows Trail Restoration: Tom Roy

Commissioner Deming noted that, in 2008, Commissioner George and himself started preliminary work on the Simsbury Meadows area as a driver for economic development to use this area for walking, running and other events. Due to a tight budget at that time, this could not be pursued.

Mr. Roy presented and discussed a slide presentation showing the Simsbury Meadows Trail Restoration area that the Town would like to restore. He discussed the trail clearing that has already been completed by Town staff and that further work needs to be done. Mr. Roy noted that a fund of \$120,000 has been allocated to this project. Slides presented included:

- Loop Trail
- Riverwalk Nature Trail map
- Approximate (aerial) trail location
- Areas of clearing performed
- Crossing – loops
- Additional pictures of area
- Signs existing from previous trail

Commission members asked questions of Mr. Roy which included the following:

- Anticipating the completion of signage on the loop trail
- Promoting to residents
- Clearing up trails before using for race
- Connecting loop with Helen's Way
- Nature walks on trail
- What land is Town owned
- Wetlands Commission to review this project
 - Mr. Rabbit discussed the Wetlands Commission review and many options/solutions with different cost points they would have to consider
- Economic value to the Town
- Meeting will be held on the March 16th to discuss this project

Mr. Cooke introduced Mr. Rabbit to Commission members and asked him to speak about the educational process that he is engaging in with the Boards and Commissions. Mr. Cooke noted that this was a recommendation by the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Rabbit briefly discussed how he would formalize educating all the land use Commissions that he is involved in. These would consist of Zoning, Planning, Wetlands, Zoning Board of Appeals as well as the Historic District Commission.

Mr. Rabbit noted that he has already met with the Planning Commission and it was well received. He also stated that the Charter Revision Committee has voted on not merging the Zoning and Planning Commissions at this time. Mr. Rabbit did suggest one to two combined meetings for the Zoning and Planning Commissions.

**Economic Development Commission – Subject to Approval
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2016**

Commissioner George discussed having applicants come before the Economic Development Commission with their projects. This would allow the EDC to be a resource for the applicants with their input and suggestions. Ms. Barnett noted that the EDC Task Force has also created a check list to evaluate projects that come before the Commission.

4. EDC Website: Review, Discussion Recommendations

Chairman Deming noted that they have been working on the website for a couple of years and it is not yet live. He noted that if everything is agreed upon, the EDC will go live with what is currently on the website.

Commission members reviewed, commented and asked questions on the website with Mr. Bazzano.

Commissioner Balboni made a motion to accept the new EDC website, after which it will go live.

Commissioner George seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. Website EDTF Recommendations: establishing Sub-committees; Infrastructure; Marketing; Process

This will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

6. Community Calendar: Status

Mr. Bazzano briefly discussed the Community Calendar on the Town's website. He noted that everything going on in Town will be listed on the website when notifications are received from various groups and organizations.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner George made a motion for approval for adjournment at 8:56 a.m. Commissioner Bligh seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Brigham
Commission Clerk