

**Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 10, 2016**  
**"Subject to Approval"**

**1. Call to Order**

Mark Deming, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:34 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 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 and Allan Raphael. Also in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services and other interested parties.

**2. Review of the minutes – January 14, 2016**

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

**3. Town Updates: Tom Cooke**

Mr. Cooke noted to Commission members that they are in the middle of the budget season and stated that this is being presented to the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance. He discussed what the State of Connecticut is doing during the budget session, which included a proposed budget cap of 2.5% for municipalities for the future.

Mr. Cooke noted that the First Selectman's office and Sarah Nielson, of the FVVA, have been visiting businesses in Town. He also discussed a proposed major solar project for the Town that may be located on 180 acres on Griffin land.

**4. Reports: FVVA; SMSP**

Ms. Sarah Nielson, SMSP updated Commission members on the following items:

- Working with the First Selectman's office with the marketing study
- Interest in Distilleries/Craft Beer
- Working on projects with owner of Antonio's Restaurant
- Business visitations
- Re-branding meeting
- Farmers Market decision
- Prizes for Try-Athlon

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Ms. Nancy Anstey, FVVA, noted they will be at the Ellsworth Center at 7:00 p.m. for their kickoff to the bus tour on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Other items Ms. Anstey discussed were:

- Farmington River Current in Time
- Tourism and the State conference on April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Marketing meetings held by the State
- New Visitor's Guide

**5. EDC Website: Updates, Monitoring, Changes**

Commissioner Deming noted areas that content can be added to the website. Some of these items included were:

- Notice of application for demolition of The Harford Building
- Work being done on the Eversource property
- Parcels that are available in Town
- Photos

Commission members discussed other items that can be added or changed on the website. Going forward, Commissioner Deming asked members to periodically look at the website and make suggestions to keep current.

Mr. Cooke noted that the First Selectman's office has received great feedback to the new Town website.

**6. EDC Liaison to the Town**

Commissioner Deming noted that Commissioner Barnett will be now be the liaison for the First Selectman's office for the EDC.

**7. Old/New Business**

Mr. Ferg Jansen briefly discussed some history on distilleries in Simsbury.

Commissioner Balboni discussed the short-term lease on some apartments in Town, which are provided for people relocating into the area. It was noted that these are usually a three to six month lease agreement.

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88 **8. Adjournment**

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90 *Commissioner Raphael made a motion for approval for adjournment at 8:10 a.m. Commissioner*

91 *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