

TOWN OF ASHFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Boards and Commissions Room
Ashford Town Hall
WEDNESDAY, September 28,2022
7:30pm(note time change)

Present: J. Rettenmeier, J. Calarese, T. Wakeman, R. Ignatowicz, R. Fenn, M. Gantick,
M. Chatey(Acting Chair) **Guests:** C. Fields

- 1. Call to Order at 7:37 PM**
- 2. Seating of Alternates-none**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2022 Meeting John C/John R -- passed**
- 4. Budget**
 - a. Planned expenditures-Treasury report not reviewed.
- 5. Communications and Announcements**
 - a. Announcements/Presentations-M. Gantick reported that Mr. Levine is seeking assistance from EDC in marketing/promoting vacancy at his building near entrance to Upton Lane. Ongoing issue for EDC is how we can help business owners in this way. Discussion about the property, and M. Gantick agreed to research with P&Z. J. Calarese willing to make a site visit and offer input to Mr. Levine on marketing potential.
 - b. News from Other Commissions-M. Gantick reported that a special Board of Selectman meeting is taking place in the next few days to review a development proposal at I-84.
 - c. Correspondence and Meetings
 - i. ABA Update-J. Rettenmeier reports that the organization is seeking new leadership to continue moving ahead.
 - ii. EDC 2022 Report-M. Chatey shared a draft of the annual report for EDC. Group authorized submitting to Board of Selectmen.
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. EDC Marketing and Communications (Chatey)
 - i. Promoting economic development in Ashford – Active Business listing/Survey-. Members agreed to accept sections of the current business listing as provided by the Assessors' office, contact businesses and work to update into an active list this year. C. Fields has worked with it for articles, and may be able to provide changes she has noted already. M.. Chatey will distribute at next meeting.
 - ii. Status of CTvisit.com project (Ignatowicz)-M. Chatey has requested passwords from Christina Davis to gain access to Town page there. Opportunity to promote traffic-buildingTown events there such as AAC Holiday event, summer concerts, Family Day or book sale C. Fields presented M. Chatey with an accounting of her hours to date since June.
 - b. EDC Website (Chonte, Chatey) –
 - i. Website and on-going Ashford Citizen Updates. Reported on recent articles, and a number that are in the pipeline. Suggestions for additional articles might include Terry's Transmissions, Liquor Store in Ashford Center, Ashford Arts Council as an engine for supporting artists, Whitehouse Garage, Dog Groomers, Ashford Dairy Bar (in season.)

- c. Ashford Our Town - Our Future Project (Gantick, Fenn)
 - i. November 16, 2022 Leadership Roundtable Meeting-M. Gantick is drafting communication and hopes for robust attendance to kick off POCD planning.
 - ii. Status of projects-no status reported
- d. Cadle Rock Property
 - i. Update on September 8, 2022 Public Hearing and Grant Application-M. Gantick reported from the joint meeting with Willington that Ashford is moving forward with a grant to procure services from consultant to help craft a plan for potential uses. May best be used for a combination of uses to include business and public elements. EPA has not removed the lien and needs to see a clear plan for completing the project. T. Wakeman suggested Town host a walk for a large group to actually see the property. Discussion about how Ashford and Willington are collaborating on this next step.

7. New Business

- a. Election of Officers-With the resignation of R. Williams as Chair of EDC, M. Chatey, as Vice Chair, is acting Chair until new officers can be elected. Very appreciate of M. Gantick's support through this time. Election tabled until the next meeting.
- b. Potential ARPA Grant and Business Survey. M. Gantick shared a draft of a business survey and outline for an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program for Ashford Businesses based on Windsor and Mansfield programs. J. Calarese moved, R. Ignatowicz seconded to approve forwarding the draft to Board of Selectmen for consideration. Motion approved. Businesses would be expected to complete the basic survey as part of the application as proposed
- c. 2023 EDC Strategic Plan- Goals and Objectives. Will focus on this at next meeting.
- d. New Member Recruitment

8. Input from Public

9. Member Input for Next Agenda

10. Adjournment T. Wakeman/R. Ignatowicz 9:17 PM

Submitted by M. Chatey, Acting Chair