

TOWN OF ASHFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, July 27, 2022 at 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Received 8-8-2022

at 12:45 AM (PM)

Attest Karen Mizulik  
Asst Ashford Town Clerk

PRESENT: R. Williams, M. Chatey; Mike Gantick, R. Fenn, R. Ignatowicz  
Guests: None

1. Call to Order - 7:36 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates - none
3. Approval of June Minutes –None to approve; no quorum
4. Budget
  - a. Reviewed expenditures for last year. There remains \$500 committed to Chonte Fields for website content. No new expenditures. R. Williams /Gantick – passed.
5. Communications and Announcements
  - a. Announcements –
    - i. Sustainable CT – Ashford had previously been certified and that certification is up for renewal. EDC as ben asked to contribute. M. Chatey will take the lead.
    - ii. Loretta Wrobel is heading a small group to develop a List of Ashford businesses and has asked that EDC participate. EDC has been working on such a list for several years (headed up by John Rettenmeier). Williams will reach out to John to see what he has. Chatey/Gantick will take the lead.
    - iii. Gary Lawrence suffered a bad fall and decided to step down from the EDC. We discussed doing something to acknowledge his years of service to the commission. Action Chatey.
  - b. News for Other Commissions
    - i. PZC – Williams summarized some of the recent activities including development of solar regulations.
    - ii. BOS – no report.
    - iii. BOF – no report.
  - c. Correspondence and Meetings
    - i. ABA has not found a location to hold the car shows. They have also suffered from a lack of members attending the monthly meeting. They plan to solicit all the existing members for input on the future of the ABA.
6. Old Business
  - a. EDC Marketing and Communications (Wakeman, R. Ignatowicz, Chatey) –
    - i. Chonte Fields' firm has been hired to develop content for CTvisit. Chatey has worked with her offline with no success to date. Chonte has yet to attend any EDC meetings.
    - ii. R. Ignatowicz will reach to T. Wakeman to see if the list of trails is ready for CTvisit.
    - iii. Margaret brought that Mansfield, Tolland, Coventry, and Bolton have form an alliance to market their towns. Discussed if Ashford should consider joining them.

- b. EDC Website (Gantick, Williams) –
  - i. The EDC website is live and posts with a link to it was placed on the OT-OF Facebook page. Christina Davis did an excellent job getting this up and running.
  - ii. Chonte is expected to take over this activity going forward.
- c. Ashford Our Town - Our Future Project (Gantick, Fenn)
  - i. The group has had limited meetings because of Zoom.
  - ii. Current activities include updating the POCD (with PZC); working with the DOT in implementing recommendation from the Road Safety Assessment (RSA); and looking into a School Safety Zone on Rt.89 near the Ashford School.
  - iii. Plans are to organize a Leadership meeting this Fall.
- d. Retail and Services Enterprise Zone (formerly Rt. 44 / Rt. 74 Planning Project) (Ignatowicz, Lawrence, Williams Chatey)
  - i. Mike G. is working with the BOS to address the RSA recommendations with the DOT.
  - ii. Discussed submitting an article to the Citizen promoting some of the new EDC activities. Margaret offered to take a crack at doing a writeup.
- e. Wagon Shed Property – Limited discussion. The BOS published an article in the Citizen citing its intention to hold a public meeting to get resident input on what to do with the property. EDC would like to take a leadership role in developing the property. Williams suggested we get some professional help in developing a marketing plan. He will contact CEDAS to see if they are still interested in working with us.

**7. New Business –**

- i. Discussed how to get new members since the two alternates rarely attend the meetings and Gary's stepping down.
- ii. Margaret had contacted Jasmin Lewis (present manager of the Henrietta House) and she has attended several EDC meetings. Sheri Mutch raised the question if she was a resident of Ashford. She is and Williams and Gantick will work on the logistics to get her formally appointed.

**8. Input from Public – none.**

**9. Member Input for Next Agenda – none**

**10. Adjournment – 8:55 PM**

Submitted by,  
Richard S. Williams  
EDC Chair