

TOWN OF ASHFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

Selectman's Room

Ashford Town Hall

WEDNESDAY, December 21, 2022

7:30pm

Present: T. Wakeman, R. Ignatowicz, R. Fenn, M. Gantick, M. Chatey(Acting Chair)

Guests: N. Weinstock

Absent: J. Calarese, J. Rettenmeier

1. Call to Order at 7:31 PM

2. Seating of Alternates-none

3. Approval of Minutes – October 26, 2022 Meeting R. Fenn moved/Bob I seconded-- approved

4. Budget

- a. Planned expenditures-Treasury report not reviewed.

5. Communications and Announcements

- a. Announcements/Presentations-.Introduction of Nick Weinstock, co-owner of BOTL Farm in Westford Village
- b. News from Other Commissions-T. Wakeman reported from Solid Waste Committee that solid waste costs are increasing significantly due to labor and transport with little return on sales. Will be making increased efforts to enforce usage by only Ashford residents, and may consider charging to use. Group discussed concern for Ashford businesses utilizing Transfer Station for disposal. Wait for analysis and full report from committee before determining our role
- c. Correspondence and Meetings
 - i. ABA Update-No report
 - ii. Ashford Our Town Our Future-M. Gantick shared takeaways from the Leadership session in November. Recognized that EDC needs to focus in 2023 on a few key areas, and be clear on commission's role in Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update regarding attitude toward business. He also reported more than 20 people attended an online meeting with Connecticut Farm Bureau Executive Director Joan Nichols about the changing face of agriculture hosted by OTOF.

6. Old Business

- a. EDC Marketing and Communications (Chatey)
 - i. Promoting economic development in Ashford – Members shared progress and suggestions on finding a more comprehensive list of businesses for calling. CEDAS, Secretary of State, OpenGovUS might all have live lists better than ours. N. Winstock offered to do some work on the list. Discussed that EDC needs to find someone to compile all the updates. M. Chatey to contact C. Fields first.
 - ii. Status of CTvisit.com project (Ignatowicz)-no report.
- b. EDC Website and on-going Ashford Citizen Updates.(Chatey/Fields) No article submitted for December. Potential to highlight Henrietta House's 300th anniversary.

Discussion about whether EDC website needs to return to marketing Ashford businesses with ABA becoming less active.

- c. Ashford Our Town - Our Future Project (Gantick, Fenn) (see report above)
- d. Cadle Rock Property – no report

7. New Business

- a. Election of Officers- Election tabled until the next meeting.
- b. New Member Recruitment-

8. Input from Public – N. Weinstock expressed his interest in the efforts of the commission, and his business. Shared news about potential repurposing of Westford Village’s Baptist Church building as an event facility by a neighbor. Warrants follow-up by EDC.

9. Member Input for Next Agenda

10. Adjournment T. Wakeman motioned/R. Fenn seconded. Adjourned 8:50 PM

Submitted by M. Chatey, Acting Chair