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4 **Economic Development Commission**
5 **Regular Meeting Minutes**
6 **February 6, 2012**
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9 **Members Present:** Joseph Mirra, Chairman
10 Richard Nunn, Vice-Chair
11 Tom Collette
12 Gary Fappiano
13 Rosemarie Preneta
14 Jim Wolfe
15
16 **Members Absent:** Mark Gingras
17
18 **Others Present:** Doreen DeSarro, Bus. Recruiter
19 Don Roe, Ec. Dev. Coord.
20 Lynn Wolff, Secretary
21 Mary Katherine Starr-Proulx
22 John LeTourneau, Town Councilor
23
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25 Chairman Joe Mirra called the meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.
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27 1. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes, dated January 9, 2011** – Tom Collette made a motion to approve
28 the January 9, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes as drafted; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By
29 unanimous vote, the motion carried.
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31 2. **Review of Expenditure Report 2011-12** – No new report available.
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33 3. **Staff Report** - Doreen DeSarro distributed and reviewed the January report (*copy attached*).

34 The Electric Rate Discount was discussed at the PUC meeting on January 17 and the terms were
35 increased. Jim Wolfe asked what the start date will be; Doreen said it will be retroactive to January 1, 2012.
36 These new terms will also be applied to any companies who were approved for the program last year.

37 Don Roe mentioned that the Grand List was forwarded to each Commissioner and said to call if anyone
38 had questions. Don distributed a copy of the Annual Report from Planning & Zoning for the EDC to review.

39 Doreen said that Middlesex Community College is recruiting Wallingford members for their Board of
40 Directors and passed around information on this.
41

42 4. **Subcommittee Reports**

43 • **Marketing** – Tom Collette reported that the Subcommittee met recently with Doreen and talked about
44 the following: Brazilian tour; program with Government TV (Joe Mirra will tape the first one on March 6);

45 discussed doing a charette in July; talked about the 2012-13 budget, including REX membership. Doreen
46 added that the Subcommittee also discussed including additional money to attend the New England
47 Economic Developers Association Annual Meeting, since it will be in Connecticut this year, as well as funds
48 for web marketing and funds to redo one of the three billboards. Don Roe said the Commission needs to
49 decide if it wants to fund membership in REX; keep in mind the commitment should continue for 3 years
50 before reevaluating this membership. The Commissioners discussed what benefits membership in REX
51 would bring, including participation in trade shows that the EDC might otherwise not be able to afford to
52 attend.

53

54 John LeTourneau arrived at 7 p.m.

55

56 **Tom Collette made a motion to approve the budget as drafted, including membership in REX; Jim**
57 **Wolfe seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

58

59 • **P&Z Liaison** – Jim Wolfe reported that the Subcommittee met and discussed: dead-end roads (no
60 direction on this yet). Jim attended the last Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. One of the agenda
61 items was a discussion on the Housing Incentive Zone. The PZC reviewed all comments and questions it
62 received since its last joint meeting with the Town Council and came up with answers to all the questions.
63 The next step would be to go back before the Town Council.

64 • **Retention/Incentives** – Gary Fappiano reported that the Subcommittee met and discussed: the new
65 Electric Rate Discount Program (the Subcommittee is thrilled with the new criteria); signage along the railroad
66 tracks (to see if signage can be put on the backs of buildings); encouraging more Latino representation on
67 Town boards and commissions.

68

69 **6. Regional Matters**

70 • **Central CT Alliance for Economic Development** – Doreen DeSarro said that an e-newsletter should be
71 sent out this month.

72 • **Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce** – Don Roe said the Board of Directors plans to meet with the
73 Superintendent of Schools soon. Joe Mirra thanked everyone who helped with the recent State of the
74 Town; the business feedback has been positive.

75 • **REX** – At REX, Don Roe attended a presentation by Matt Nemerson of the CT Technology Council
76 regarding a State of Ct. funded (at \$5m. per year for 3 years) CT innovation ecosystem initiative.

77 • **Workforce Alliance** – Joe Mirra said he will be sending a document to the EDC concerning Workforce
78 Alliance.

79

80 **7. Community Involvement**

81 Jim Wolfe wondered about having a local college do a survey on the best town in CT in which to relocate
82 your business? Don Roe felt that would be too narrow a topic, given that we have 169 towns, and it would

83 also depend on the type of business. Ms. Starr-Proulx thought you might be able to get a grad student to do
84 this for free; Don disagreed saying that staff would have to supervise the student – it’s not free!

85 *Tom Collette asked staff to get Joe Mirra a copy of the CT Magazine article; our ranking was good and*
86 *this will be great information to have for the program at Government TV; Doreen DeSarro will send this to*
87 *Joe.*

88 Don Roe said he wants to make sure we have information ready for the Town Council budget meeting.
89 He asked if the Marketing Subcommittee would like to have Ginny K. from REX attend the next Subcommittee
90 meeting? Tom Collette said yes. *Don will contact her tomorrow to see if she is available at this late notice.*
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92 **There being no further business, Tom Collette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.; Jim**
93 **Wolfe seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

94
95 Sincerely,

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99 Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary

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101 Attachment

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103
104 EDCMin20612DrNotApp