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2 **Economic Development Commission**  
3 **Regular Meeting Minutes**  
4 **December 4, 2017**  
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7 **Present:** Joe Mirra, Chair  
8 Jim Wolfe, Vice-Chair  
9 Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner  
10 Gary Fappiano, Commissioner  
11 Mark Gingras, Commissioner  
12 Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner  
13 Hank Baum, Alternate  
14 Russ Mills, Alternate

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16 **Absent:** Tom Collette, Commissioner  
17 Ed Zavaski, Alternate

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19 **Others Present:** Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist  
20 Lynn Wolff, Secretary  
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23 Chair Joe Mirra called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. The  
24 Chair asked Russ Mills to serve as a voting member.  
25

26 1. **Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2017** – Mark Gingras  
27 made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Patricia Cymbala seconded the motion. By a vote of  
28 6 yeases and 1 abstention, the motion carried.  
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30 2. **Review of Monthly Expenditure Report** – No comments were made on the October report as attached to the  
31 agenda.  
32

33 3. **Discussion and possible action on draft Yearly Meeting Schedule for 2018** – The secretary asked  
34 members to consider whether or not to change the meeting room from 315 to 116 and also asked if the  
35 proposed date for the April meeting was fine. After some discussion about the meeting room location, Gary  
36 Fappiano voted to approve the dates for meetings as drafted and to keep Room 315 as the meeting  
37 room; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.  
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39 4. **Committee Reports**

40 • **Marketing** –

- 41 ➤ **Update on meeting discussion** – Mark Gingras said the Committee met on November 29. As part  
42 of public outreach, the Committee is working on the first of several inserts for inclusion into electric  
43 bills. Mark briefed the EDC on content suggestions for the first insert--a tri-fold, two-sided brochure  
44 which will let the residents know who is on the EDC and what the Commission does. The

45 Committee hopes to have the first brochure ready for the March/April bill mailing. Members  
46 wondered if the Committee has considered marketing the Town through social media. The EDC  
47 discussed the pros and cons of social media; i.e. who will monitor the content? Gary Fappiano said  
48 that his company uses interns from Quinnipiac University and there is no cost involved; perhaps the  
49 EDC could get an intern. Members were worried about continuity. Gary explained that some  
50 interns last throughout a school year. The Committee will consider the use of social media at their  
51 next meeting.

- 52 ➤ **Next meeting:** January 3, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., Room 205.

- 53
- 54 • **P&Z Liaison –**

- 55 ➤ **Update on committee activities –**
- 56 ➤ **Update on PZC and ZBA actions –** A recent PZC workshop focused on reviewing/amending Town  
57 Center zoning. The PZC is considering allowing 4-story development projects and also discussed  
58 changing the parking regulations within this zone. EDC members are pleased that the Town is  
59 focusing on its growth. Tim Ryan said the workshop was an education for all --the Town has its  
60 vision but the marketplace has a vision too. Joe Mirra said that several meetings will be held  
61 before PZC makes any decision.
- 62 ➤ **Updates on Plan of Cons. & Dev., Downtown, TOD –** Patricia Cymbala said she attended a  
63 POCD Implementation Committee meeting. This committee introduced themselves and discussed  
64 what has been done so far. No future meeting date was set.
- 65 ➤ **Next meeting –** None scheduled.

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- 67 • **Retention/Incentives –**

- 68 ➤ **Update on committee activities –** Gary Fappiano said, although the Committee did not meet in  
69 November, they have considered trying to organize a meeting with our downtown merchants and  
70 WCI. Joe Mirra said that he is willing, once the Committee gets something together, to talk with the  
71 WCI Board. The EDC was reminded about upcoming company visits and the list of attendees was  
72 finalized.
- 73 ➤ **Next meeting –** Tentatively set for January 31 at 3:30 p.m.

- 74
- 75 5. **Chairman's remarks** – Joe Mirra asked if the EDC still wants to receive emails about ribbon cuttings;  
76 members said yes. Joe told the EDC that the Mayor's State of the Town is scheduled for January 19 from 12-2  
77 p.m. at Ashlar Village; he asked that any suggestions for companies to invite be sent quickly to Tim Ryan so  
78 invitations can go out. Jim Wolfe suggested inviting Amphenol, since the 12-year highway ramp construction  
79 project is now complete, and also suggested inviting Ferti Technologies. Mark Gingras suggested inviting JFA  
80 Management. Tim will add these three companies to the invitation list.
- 81

82 **6. Staff reports/regional matters** – Tim Ryan reviewed items from the November monthly report sent out with  
 83 the agenda. A few items were highlighted. The new railroad station opened on November 6; the present  
 84 schedule of 6 trains/day will continue until May 2018, when the number will increase to 17/day. In December a  
 85 group of six Wallingford businesses, EDC Chair and staff; Rob Kovi, Career & Technical Educational  
 86 Coordinator, Wlfd. Public Schools; and the Director of Career Services for the German-American Chamber of  
 87 Commerce will visit Trumpf USA in Farmington, an industry leader in manufacturing, to learn about their  
 88 success in Hartford development strategies. Center Street Brewing will be opening at 23 Wallace Avenue  
 89 (behind the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and the Caplan building). The CT Main Street organization plans to  
 90 hold their governance committee meeting at HUBCAP in early December. Also, REX has asked to make a  
 91 presentation at the January EDC meeting. Tim also thanked Rosemarie Preneta, Patricia Cymbala, Mark  
 92 Gingras and Gary Fappiano for helping at The Big Connect.

93 Gary Fappiano said that we need to get people to understand that the EDC is here to assist them. Joe  
 94 Mirra suggested that a message encouraging businesses to talk to EDC staff or attend an EDC meeting to  
 95 discuss their project be included in one of the bill insert mailings.

96 Mark Gingras reported that a private group he’s on that meets about parking issues has been focusing on  
 97 the parking behind Simpson Court. There are three walkways that connect the rear parking to Simpson Court.  
 98 The group worked with three property owners to improve these walkways, including repaving and adding  
 99 archways and planters to improve the aesthetics. After that is finished, the group hopes to tackle the parking  
 100 lot itself, perhaps by securing a grant for the improvements.

101  
 102 **7. Dates to Remember** – EDC members were encouraged to attend the following: LHHS students will have a  
 103 pop-up bakery at the HUBCAP on Saturday, December 9 from 8 am-3 pm. The Wallingford Public Library will  
 104 feature Holo-Krome at the next *Made in Wallingford* program on December 11, 7-8 p.m. And, as previously  
 105 mentioned, the State of the Town will be held on January 19.

106  
 107 **8. Community Involvement** – Joe Mirra said that the HUBCAP will be having its first bridal expo in January.

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 109 **There being no further business, Mark Gingras made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; Patricia**  
 110 **Cymbala seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

111  
 112 Sincerely,  
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 116 Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary