



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### Windham Economic Development Committee WEDC Meeting Minutes Friday, May 10, 2013

**Present:** Chairman, Bob Young; Members: Dianne Connolly, Sally D'Angelo, Bev Donovan, Paul Gosselin, Ralph Valentine, Sy Wrenn (7:38)

**Excused:** A. Letizio, J. Yennaco

**Admin Staff:** Laura Scott

**Absent:** K. DiFruscia,

**Guests:**

- Mr. Max Puyanic, ConvenientMD, Mr. Karl Dubay, Mr. Peter Griffin, Mr. A. Klemm, Ms. A. Magnuson, Mr. P. Mullett, Mr. Todd Thamer
- Ms Donna Morris, Salem C of C
- Mr. B. Breton, Mr. J. Coburn
- Ms Ruth-Ellen Post

Chairman Young opened the meeting at 7:34

**VOTED:** On motion made (R. Valentine) and seconded (P. Gosselin), the committee approved the minutes of the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with one spelling correction. 6-0-0.

Chairman Young welcomed the guests to the meeting and extended thanks to the newly appointed members of the WEDC, Mr. Ralph Valentine (re-appointed for a 3 year term), Mr. Bruce Breton (appointed to a 3 year term Mr. J. Yennaco will vacate at the end of June), Mr. James Coburn (appointed to a 3 year term and to be seated as soon as he is sworn in) and Ms Susan Denoloulos, (appointed to a 2 year term, filling an empty seat and to be seated as soon as she is sworn in).

**Infrastructure Subcommittee - R. Valentine** The committee continues to meet twice per month. Most recently the subcommittee heard from the towns of Derry and Salem. Derry indicated that it might be in a position to "sell" water to Windham and Salem cited both its numerous sources and full usage of water, indicating that it may not have enough water available to sell. Mr. Valentine again raised the idea of requesting a water use study.

**TRC - S. D'Angelo** Ms D'Angelo noted that recent reviews did not include any commercial sites.

**Village Center - B. Donovan** The committee met last week for its final review of the suggestions to be made to the Planning Board for designs within the Village District. Mr. Wrenn added that the suggestions are minor. Ms Scott offered that design regulations do vary based on zoning.

Mr. Young noted that the WEDC will have a joint committee meeting with the Planning Board at 7:30 on May 29<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all committee members to attend. The two items of discussion will be the "Ready Set Go" pre-certified site program and items of the Master Plan on which the WEDC and the Planning Board could collaborate. Discussion followed regarding the WEDC's position on the pre-certification site program with members agreed that both neutral and negative opinions will be offered to

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**APPROVED**



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the Planning Board. Chairman Young asked members to review the Master Plan list of items and send him suggestions on prioritizations prior to May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Puyanic** offered a comprehensive presentation on the negative impact of removing the traffic light currently at the intersection of Route 111 and Route 111A. He asked the WEDC to support his position in asking the BOS to allow the traffic light to remain in place. His presentation included -

1. Negative business impact in creating a difficult left hand turn to access businesses along both roads as well as adjoined 29 acre commercial parcel
2. Decrease in business prosperity resulting in decrease in taxes for the town
3. Significant safety issues for both cars and pedestrians
4. Traffic engineer study indicating little negative congestion should traffic light remain
5. Costs - much more to remove the light than to allow it to stay
6. Warrant - traffic studies indicate the intersection warrants a light; group is waiting to meet with DOT regarding its own study

Mr. Puyanic concluded by presenting numerous supportive letters from area businesses. Invited guests also expressed support for leaving the light in place. Mr. Puyanic aligned the group's thinking with the WEDC mission, citing both issues of economic growth and prosperity as well as safety.

Chairman Young read into the minutes (attached) a letter submitted by Selectman Al Letizio suggesting a round-about if the light were to be removed. Discussion ensued on all points, with WEDC members and guests expressing opinions.

**VOTED:** On motion made (P. Gosselin) and seconded (S. D'Angelo), the committee agreed to the following: In keeping with the WEDC's Mission to support economic development and safety issues, the WEDC supports retaining the existing light at the intersection of Route 111 and Route 111A. The WEDC's support is with the understanding that traffic studies identify the light as warranted and as not increasing congestion. 6-0-1 (R. Valentine having earlier recused himself in all discussion and voting on this topic, abstaining).

**Planning Board - S. Wrenn** - Noted the next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>

**Chamber - B. Donovan** - Various upcoming events

**Community Development - L. Scott** - Welcome packets being well received, various business visits scheduled and noted increased attendance at Business Seminars

Chairman Young regretfully submitted his resignation, citing his upcoming move out of state, noting that he has fully enjoyed and learned from his association with the committee. Committee members thanked Chairman Young for his fine leadership. Mr. Young identified Mr. Gosselin, currently Vice Chairman, as the Interim Chairman pending elections in July.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08.