



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Windham Economic Development Committee WEDC Meeting Minutes Friday, August 09, 2013

Present: Chairman, Ralph Valentine; Members: Bruce Breton, Jim Coburn, Dianne Connolly, Susan Denopolis, Bev Donovan, Ed Gallagher, Al Letizio, Michael Oldenburg, Sy Wrenn (7:45)

Admin Staff: Laura Scott

Absent: K. DiFruscia,

Chairman Valentine opened the meeting at 7:35 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOTED: On motion made (A. Letizio) and seconded (B. Donovan), the committee approved the minutes of the July 12th meeting with one correction. 8-0-1 (E. Gallagher abstaining).

Chairman Valentine introduced and welcomed new WEDC member, Ed Gallagher.

TRC - J. Coburn: Mr. Coburn identified two topics discussed in association with TRC considerations that could have an impact on commercial development, one the requirements for impervious surfaces and the other, the issue of extending watershed / aquifer protection to "well head" areas. This could extend by a considerable amount the land protected and could impact both commercial and residential areas abutting property which installed a community well. Ms Scott agreed to keep the WEDC informed if additional policies were initiated.

Planning Board - S. Wrenn. Mr. Wrenn informed the WEDC that a recent subcommittee discussion extended into general commercial development and zoning and again noted that WEDC input would be helpful. Mr. Valentine referenced a recent and very positive discussion with the Chairman of the Planning Board.

VOTED: On motion made (B. Donovan) and seconded (A. Letizio) the committee agreed to request of the Planning Board that if the scope of subcommittee discussions extended into general commercial area development, that the Board consider adding a WEDC member to the subcommittee, as discussion of regulations related to business development would be appropriate for WEDC input. Approved 5-4-1. (Nay: J. Coburn, S. Denopolus, M Oldenburg, R. Valentine. Abstaining: E. Gallagher)

Land Use - B. Donovan - No recent meetings to report

BO S - A. Letizio. The BOS approved the "reader board" sign for the high school, noting that it exceeds the size defined by town regulations and is located on the right of way, but explaining that the school can claim exemption from town regulations. The BOS voted to recommend that the state retain the traffic light at the intersection of Route 111 and Route 111A, and the BOS implemented a Purchasing policy which included the WEDC recommendations.

Chamber of Commerce - B. Donovan - Various upcoming events were highlighted with emphasis on a September dinner to be held at Castleton.

Approved



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Communications Subcommittee - A. Letizio Next meeting scheduled for August 20th.

Infrastructure – R. Valentine Mr. Valentine detailed a recent meeting with the DES and the information presented regarding water, underscoring such elements as fire flow needs, increased residential and commercial insurance because of limited water availability and significant cost increase for commercial cistern construction and the like. Mr. Letizio added additional information about the cost of fire equipment because of the lack of town water. Discussion continued related to adding \$35,000 for a water study to the Community Development budget. Mr. Valentine stressed his commitment to providing better information to other town groups, boards and the general public.

Community Development – L. Scott. Ms Scott highlighted upcoming initiatives which she had detailed in a previous email and are available on the Community Development web site. She also noted that the Planning Board will again review the town's sign ordinance. Mr. Letizio and others noted that fewer regulations may be better than trying to regulate for every eventuality.

Chairman Valentine announced, as required in the bylaws, that the next WEDC meeting will include a review of the committee's bylaws. The September 13th meeting will focus on the bylaws, progress against the strategic plan and the water issue. Regular business will be covered at an additional meeting scheduled for September 20th.

Discussion continued about meeting with the BOS. Mr. Letizio suggested that the meeting focus on an issue of importance and suggested the water issue and the funds needed for a water study. All agreed.

Chairman Valentine adjourned the meeting at 9:15.

Approved