

Willington Economic Development Commission

April 13, 2022 | 6:30pm

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM.

Members In Attendance: Matt Clark, Richard Maloney, Bill Rankin, Samantha Hills, Cheryl Mitchell (absent)
EDC Support: John Guskowski, Mike D'Amato,

Public Participation

None

Approval of minutes:

None

Old Business:

Rail Project

Bill Rankin gave a report on the F&F purchase of DeSiato's sand and gravel operation at 365 River Road, Willington. Mr. Rankin reported the new owners of the site F & F Concrete are scheduling a meeting with the Planning Department staff and Mr. Rankin. The meeting will take place in three weeks and will be a comprehensive plan for the site to include leasing lay down areas and building to support the rail spur that exists on the site.

American Rescue Plan Act

Samantha Hills reported that the ARPA Commission approved a grant of three hundred thousand dollars for small businesses and non-profits. Discussion about creating the application and marketing the availability of funds. Mike D'Amato and John Guskowski said that they will put together the application and marketing plan for Commission review.

New Business

Cannabis Establishments

Discussion of the budding industry took place. There was no Commission motion concerning support or non-support. Mr. D'Amato gave an overview of the industry and zoning requirements. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be having a hearing on a set of regulation for the cultivation and retail sale of cannabis.

Outreach

Discussion of outreach and marketing plan for ARPA funds.

Reports

Mr. D'Amato discussed regional blight ordinances. Mr. D'Amato led a conversation about possibly allowing for a graduated tax abatement of residential property value when properties are identified in need of improvement and homeowners or business take on those improvements.

Mr. D'Amato said there has been quite a bit of commercial activity in Willington as of late.

Present to speak

Ralph Tullis asked the Commission to revise the ARPA criteria so that an individual could apply. Individuals would need one of the following: trade name certificate filed with the Town, a professional, business, occupational or health credential issued to the individual by the Town, state of Connecticut or Federal Government

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:25.