

Willington Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE: Richard Maloney, Cheryl Mitchell, John Guszowski, Matt Clark, Bill Rankin, John Blessington; Meeting was called to order @ 6:30 PM

Matt made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26th; seconded by Bill; Motion carried

Rick Maloney kicked off the meeting looking for an update on regulations; John indicated that there was an issue with server and all information has been lost. Will need to recreate his notes so no revised draft available at this time

There was an inquiry as to whether or not the public Q&A presentation was favorable; John reported it was but not a huge crowd as anticipated

A suggestion was made to put the meeting on You Tube and then discuss

Sidewalk update - Mike is waiting on meeting with one of the neighbors and looking for tweaks with the designing engineer. Sidewalks will now be installed all the way up to the Fish & Game Club.

Rail Project update - River & Rail Café is now closed; Bill met with Desiato and others on 4/16/21; will be visiting the property off Route 74; a candid appraisal by Bill indicated that it will be a big stretch for the DOT to approve; will take a look at property off Route 32. Route 74 past the plaza is a difficult intersection for a truck; 56 acres abuts the railroad; will need to formalize an approach before dealing with the state; will address with Joe Courtney and indicate State of Connecticut will be making an investment; similar to investment made by State of Connecticut and the railroad to improve current rail bed gross weight to 280,000 pound limit from Massachusetts/Connecticut state line to New London CT.

Mike and John met with a soil specialist. At the Desiato property there was an area that was dug out which fills up with water but not necessarily a wetland. Soil specialist indicated it was a wetland.

Ed Foley representing New England Central Railroad suggested the town should start positioning it as a rail exchange development and an aerial photo to be worked up to start marketing the property. Put information on railroad website (another part of the project) and start a discussion with the state again. John indicates that the scenario should be treated as a high level economic development or put through Governor's office; owned by DEP but not a formal park. Bill will check access & viability of state owned property on rail behind I 84 rest area for consideration as a possible alternate site to the Desiato property.

New Business:

Bill asked when we could start meeting in person again; we should know in the next week or so. Matt mentioned the conversation on FaceBook regarding the usage of the building near Anything Printed/Dollar General area. It was responded to by Mike that a formal complaint needs to be issued to P&Z and then they will check out property and cite any problems with the regulations. We will be putting a date together for all to walk the property.

Rick made a Motion to Adjourn at 7:02 PM; Cheryl seconded; Motion carried

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Mitchell

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record August 9 2021
At 2:13 PM [Signature] TC