



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025, 7:00 PM

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Regular Members Chris Todd (via Zoom), David Hurley (via Zoom), and Cynthia Soto (via Zoom)

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Donna Resutek, Alternates Amos Smith and Michael Swanson

STAFF

PRESENT: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner (via Zoom) and Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

Chairman Kelly reported no new updates.

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Kelly reported no new updates.

3. Agricultural Initiatives

Chairman Kelly reported no new updates.

4. CEDAS Best Practices – Monthly Customer Service Satisfaction Survey Results

Chairman Kelly reported no new updates.

5. Report: Current Economic Activity

Chairman Kelly opened the discussion regarding potential interest in a networking event for town businesses to meet and collaborate. Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, shared the results of a survey recently sent to an email distribution list of roughly 120 businesses in town. In summary, 11 businesses responded to the survey and the results concluded the most ideal approach is to have events quarterly on Wednesdays at approximately 10 AM. For a setting, responses indicated interest in having these meetings at a local business, with a rotating schedule for hosting. Furthermore, when asked about the structure of a networking event, the interested parties indicated the desire for a casual open forum to discuss and share ideas and identify ways to collaborate. Two businesses commented with strong interest in this type of

programming. Commissioner Todd joined the discussion and asked Lisa if the days and times of interest were convenient for the planning office to attend. Ms. Houlihan responded that initially she anticipates her role to be limited to helping local businesses connect and establish ongoing business-to-business networking meetings. After kick-off and based on how businesses want to structure ongoing meetings, staff should be able to accommodate quarterly meetings on Wednesdays at 10AM. Chairman Kelly asked if First Selectman Lori Spielman has seen the results of the survey and Lisa responded yes and will follow up with Lori to move forward.

Ms. Houlihan suggested reaching out to one of the businesses that provided comments about hosting the first event, potentially as early as April. Commissioner Todd added if the programming gains momentum, possibly commission members could join future events. Lisa will provide an update at a future meeting.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget & Expenditures Update.

Chairman Kelly reported no new updates.

2. Approval of February 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (TODD) SECONDED (SOTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 12, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

3. Election of Officers

Chairman Kelly requested the election of officers be moved to the next Economic Development Commission meeting in April 2025 due to attendance reasons, noting the Vice Chairman is absent. Lisa confirmed the request and by consensus, the election of officers was moved to next month's agenda.

4. Correspondence/Discussion:

- a. Notice of Ellington Public Budget Presentations - Community Voice Channel on March 20, 2025, Senior Center and Virtual Zoom Meeting on May 1, 2025, and Hall Memorial Library and Virtual Zoom Meeting on May 3, 2025.

Chairman Kelly strongly advised commission members to continue discussions with neighbors and community members about the upcoming revaluation process. In response to the commission, Lisa confirmed that the presentations are heavily advertised.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (SOTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk