



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MNUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026, 7:00 PM

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

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman Donna Resutek (via Zoom), Regular Members David Hurley (arrived @ 7:10 pm) and Cynthia Soto, and Alternate Nicholas Pina (via Zoom)

ABSENT: Regular member Chris Todd and Alternates Amos Smith and Michael Swanson

OTHER ATTENDEES: Laurie Burstein, First Selectman

STAFF

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Sean Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs

- a. Review of approved Tax Abatement Agreement for Ellington Racquet Club, 55 Lower Butcher Road.

The Commission discussed the status of the sale of the tennis club and its potential impact on the existing abatement. Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, reported she contacted the owner, left a voicemail, but had not received a call back. Local taxes are paid to date. The abatement may be transferable, but action is needed prior to sale. The group will continue to monitor sale efforts.

- b. Status of approval for tax abatement application for Roaring Brook Farm, LLC, & Aborn Farm, LLC, 18 Meadow Brook Road. (Town Meeting April 13, 2026, 6pm, Town Hall)

The group discussed the upcoming Town Meeting on April 13th regarding the Aborn Farm abatement application, with clarification that if approved the agreement only applies to the new structures listed in the application and existing taxes would continue to be collected.

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, noted the passing of Candice Corcione on April 2, 2026. Candice was the long-time Executive Director of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce. Candice

retired a few years ago and remained a consultant for the Chamber. Candice was instrumental in helping the Town of Ellington join the Chamber.

3. Agricultural Initiatives - Nothing new to report.
4. CEDAS Best Practice
 - a. Monthly Customer Service Satisfaction Survey Results (None received)

Nothing new to report.

- b. Membership benefits and opportunities letter.

The group reviewed their membership with CEDAS, discussing the benefits received including newsletters, webinars, and policy updates, while noting a shift away from educational content during COVID. The conversation ended with a suggestion to provide feedback to CEDAS about increasing educational programming. Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, mentioned educational opportunities are posted on the CEDAS website and monthly e-newsletter. In response to Commissioner Soto, staff confirmed CEDAS events are open to staff and commissioners. Some events may be fee-based and the commission's budget for professional development has been cut during past budget deliberations to \$100 per fiscal year. Lisa encouraged commissioners interested in training to contact her to help register and coordinate payment of fees.

- c. Discussion: Revised draft Shop Ellington 2025 Event Survey.

The Commission reviewed the revised Shop Ellington survey questions and approved them as presented. The Commission asked Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, to send out the survey.

5. Report: Current Economic Activity
 - a. Report – Quarterly Ellington Business Networking Event.

Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, reported on the recent Ellington business networking event at Skip's Wastewater Services at 21 Courtney Drive. The event had 18 businesses and 28 attendees, including a few new businesses. Participants discussed positive feedback about the networking events, noting they foster community and business connections. The next networking event is planned for June 17th, tentatively at the Ellington Depot Ice Cream Shack, 1 Crystal Lake Road.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget & Expenditures Update.

The group reviewed the budget status, noting a healthy portion remaining, and decided to use funds for additional signs and advertising in the North Central News, etc. before the June 30th budget deadline for Shop Ellington.

2. Approval of February 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (SOTO) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 11, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

3. Election of Officers

Chairman Kelly mentioned anticipated scheduling constraints that may hinder his ability to serve as Chairman later in the year. He expressed willingness to continue to serve as Chairman if no one else is interested at this time but gave the group a heads-up that he may have to step down

at some point. Vice Chairman Resutek offered to assist Sean in carrying out Chairman duties to back-up Sean when needed.

a. Chairman Position

MOVED (RESUTEK) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (KELLY) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR OF 2026.

COMMISSIONER (KELLY) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MOVED (HURLEY) SECONDED (SOTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (KELLY) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR OF 2026.

b. Vice-Chairman Position

MOVED (HURLEY) TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (RESUTEK) FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR OF 2026.

COMMISSIONER (RESUTEK) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MOVED (SOTO) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (RESUTEK) FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR OF 2026.

4. Correspondence/Discussion:

a. Review of Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Implementation Schedule for EDC initiatives.

The meeting focused on reviewing completed and pending recommendations from the 2019 POCD. Key discussions included the Route 83 Corridor Study, which recommended updating Planned Commercial zones. The group explored the possibility of developing the Center Village Plan, with suggestions to pursue grant opportunities and contact The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). They also discussed creating an Agricultural Advisory Commission, potentially by modifying the Conservation Commission's role to officially include agricultural initiatives, which would require a future charter revision. Several completed actions were noted, including reviewing regulations to remove barriers to farming and amending zoning regulations for agrotourism. The group discussed past and potential future agricultural events in Ellington. Chairman Kelly noted the previous Farm Day events, which had attendance challenges due to scheduling conflicts with other activities. They explored the possibility of organizing an event at a single farm rather than requiring visits at multiple farms and potentially incorporating it into the existing Shop Ellington event. The Commission also discussed implementing a business recognition program tied to their quarterly networking meetings.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (SOTO) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk