

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting

Room 201

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 8:30 AM

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82760417080?pwd=y98chNVIsPATvzWp7Mmxe3U8ISIXgk.1>

Meeting ID: 827 6041 7080

Passcode: ZSY8DZ

a. Call to order:

b. Approval of Minutes: * April 14, 2026

c. Communications:

d. New Business:

i.

ii.

e. Reports of Officers and Committees:

f. Old Business:

g. Public Comments:

h. Other: i.

ii.

iii.

i. Adjournment*:

***Vote Required**

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting Room 201 Tuesday April 14, 2026

Minutes

Present: M. Bogdanski, Vice Chairman, O. Williamson, J.D. Taylor,

Also Present: M.A. Chinatti Econ. & Comm. Dev./Redev. Dir., Susan Ramos Recording Secretary,
Russell Downer, Blight

Absent: L. Konicki, Chairman, P. Grenier

a. Call to order: Vice Chairman Bogdanski called the meeting to order at 8:31AM. Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum was present.

b. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2026
(M/S/C) Taylor/Bogdanski to approve the February 10, 2026 minutes. Carried unanimously.

c. New Business
None

d. Reports if Officers and Committees:
None

e. Old Business:
M. A.C. Informed members the track plans were sent To DECD for a review before it can be put out to bid. Cargill Hotel engineering plans will be ready more likely at the end of October.

f. Public Comments:
None

g. Other

I. Directors Report – Written Report Provided.

II. Russ Downer corrected date of report to April 10, 2026 not January 10, 2026.

Dept of health is going to talk to the homeowner at 400 Woodstock Ave. to come up with a cleanup plan. One illegal dumping shown in report has been taken care of,
Putnam Police are trying to touch base the person who dumped illegally.
The Highway Dept. graciously cleaned things up.

III. M.A.C. informed the committee the Public Art Project is moving forward. Looking at late spring for the first one to go in front of Wolperdinger Bookends and it will be Jack in the Beanstalk.
The second one should be in July, and one should be in by September.
Also, Imagetek who is looking to move their headquarters to Putnam were working on finalizing their lease at 100 Highland Drive.

h. Adjournment:
(M/S/C) Taylor/ Williamson to adjourn at 8:36AM



TOWN OF PUTNAM

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

TOWN HALL

200 SCHOOL STREET • PUTNAM, CT 06260

MEMORANDUM

TO: Putnam Economic Development Commission
Putnam Redevelopment Agency

FROM: Mary Ann Chinatti, Economic & Community Development Director

DATE: July 7, 2026

SUBJ: Director's Report

STEAP Grant – The Project was put out to bid on July 2. A mandatory pre-bid (virtual) conference is scheduled for July 15, and bids will be opened on Aug. 6 at 11AM. Bids will then be reviewed and it is anticipated a contractor will be selected within two-three weeks of bid opening.

CT DECD 2022 Municipal Brownfield Assessment and Remediation Grant Program (Belding Mill Project) – The Town is still waiting for updated documents from the property owner (appraisal, certificate of insurance, etc.), which are required by DECD. Upon receipt of those documents, they will be forwarded to DECD's attorney and, provided no changes are needed, a closing will be scheduled. It is hoped the closing will take place by mid-July..

CT DECD Brownfield Municipal Grant Program Round 18 (2 Furnace St. and 20 Mechanic St.) – The Market Study has been finalized, and Staff met with its consultant and Kooris Consulting, which will now provide conceptual developments/costs for four redevelopment options. Upon receipt, staff and the Town's consultant will discuss options with the property owner.

Air Line Trail/CT DEEP Recreational Trails Grant – The Town's consultant for the Project met with Town staff on July 8 to go over plans for the trail, and held a site walk following that meeting.

Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update – Tyche Planning & Policy Group, the Town's consultant on the Project, is in the process of finalizing the document. Following completion, Tyche will hold public meetings to solicit any additional comments prior to making a final presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission for its approval.

Union Square Courtyard – The Town's funding request under DEEP's Urban Green and Community Gardens Program was approved for \$246,373.16, \$3,626.84 less than the Town's \$250,000 request. Upon finalization of required State agreements, the Project will be put out to bid.

Grove St. – South Main St. Sidewalks Project – The State Bond Commission approved the Town's funding request for the project. Staff is currently working with NECCOG engineer Syl

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Pauley to provide DECD with updated timeline and cost estimate. Staff is also working on the State's required closing documents. Upon completion, the project will be put out to bid.

School St. – Walmart Sidewalk Project – Staff, Mayor Seney, Town Administrator Sistare and NECCOG engineer Syl Pauley met with Rick Chapman, DOT District 2, on the 22nd of last month to discuss the project, as DOT review of the plans is required because the project is located on a State road. Discussed were the possibility of DOT approving a less-than 5' wide sidewalk at the retaining wall area across from Mechanics St., and the pedestrian bridge over Little Dam Tavern Brook. Outcome of that site visit is that the project will be conducted in two phases – Phase 1 will be sidewalk extension from where it currently ends to just before the bridge over Little Dam Tavern Brook, picking up again after the bridge and continuing to Walmart, and Phase 2 will be construction of the pedestrian bridge.

FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending – The Peake Brooke project was included in the bill text authored by the Agriculture subcommittee and forwarded to the Appropriations Committee, which is great progress. Additionally, it was the one project to sneak through with nearly the full request amount. We requested \$1 million, and \$938,000 was approved.

Passenger Rail – Staff attended a webinar hosted by AMTRAK regarding a New Haven-to-Providence Capacity Planning Study on June 15. Amtrak will conduct the study with its partners at Connecticut DOT, Rhode Island DOT, Massachusetts DOT, MBTA, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Northeast Corridor Commission. The study is an important opportunity to evaluate alternatives for preserving and improving Northeast Corridor (NEC) rail capacity and performance with careful consideration of potential impacts on natural and human-built environments, with a robust and inclusive public engagement effort leading the way. As part of this Study, a Public Advisory Committee will be established, to which Staff has requested appointment.

It is noted that the Study Area includes all of eastern Connecticut (see study area map, attached), from just west of the Hartford/New Haven line and continues to Providence. It is also noted that, though eastern Connecticut is included in the study area, it is completely ignored with the exception of the coastline. Staff brought this up during the webinar, stressing that our area should, indeed, be *actively* included in the study as passenger rail did, until April of 1971, serve the Norwich-Killingly-Plainfield-Putnam-Thompson-points north and east, and there is no reason it can't be revived. After discussion, it was decided that, should there be enough interest in re-establishing rail service, they will look incorporating the area in the Study.

In response to that, Staff has drafted a Passenger Rail Survey, attached to this report, which is available on the Town's website, in the library, and will be distributed to towns up and down the I-395 corridor. In addition, Mayor Seney and I met with the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce on July 7, which will assist with the effort. We are in the process of scheduling meetings with NECCOG and SCCOG to enlist their support and active participation as well.

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As part of this Study, Amtrak will be hosting "Pop up" events to familiarize people with the project, one of which will be at the Brooklyn Fair. It is hoped that survey response will be

high so Staff can present those surveys to representatives at this event and further discuss inclusion of our area with Amtrak representatives.

It is noted that 12 US Senators, including Senator Murphy and Senator Blumenthal, signed a letter on Feb. 12, 2026 to Chairs, Vice Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the Senate Committee on Appropriations which stated, in part, "...Passenger rail is a vital part of our national transportation network, providing passengers with a valuable and efficient option for regional travel and connecting cities across America..."

It is further noted that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities includes in its list of 2026 Legislative Priorities, "Provide more funding to support mass transit such as rail, bus service..."

Staff respectfully requests that members complete/submit the survey so I can include in my packet to Amtrak.

:MAC



PASSENGER RAIL SURVEY

ABSTRACT

We are looking for input regarding whether you would like to see passenger rail once again in Eastern Connecticut, from New London to points north. We hope you will complete the survey; your opinion is important.

Mary Ann Chinatti, Director, ECD/Redev.
Town of Putnam

Please email the completed survey to: maryann.chinatti@putnamct.us, or mail/drop it off at our office in Room 206 of the Putnam Municipal Complex at 200 School St., Putnam, CT 06260. This survey is also available on the Town's website at: www.putnamct.us



PASSENGER RAIL SURVEY

Core Support & Interest

- **How interested are you in having passenger rail service in northeastern Connecticut?**
Strongly interested _____ Interested _____ Not interested _____
- **Do you support efforts to study or pursue passenger rail in our region?** Strongly support _____
Support _____ Oppose _____ Strongly oppose _____
- **Would you personally use passenger rail if it were available?** Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Travel Patterns & Likely Usage

- **How often do you travel to the following destinations? (Providence, Worcester, Hartford, New London/Groton, Norwich, Boston, New York, other)** Daily _____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____
Rarely _____
- **If passenger rail existed, how often do you think you would use it?** Daily _____ Weekly _____
Monthly _____ Rarely _____
- **What types of trips would you use passenger rail for?** Work commute _____
Medical appointments _____ College _____ Shopping _____ Visiting family _____
Tourism _____ Airport access _____
Other _____
- **Which stations or towns would be most convenient for you?** Putnam _____ Plainfield _____
Killingly _____ Norwich _____ Willimantic _____
Other _____

Motivations:

- **What benefits do you think passenger rail could bring to northeastern Connecticut?**
Reduced traffic _____ Economic development _____ Access to jobs _____
Transportation for seniors _____ Environmental benefits _____ Tourism _____
Other _____
- **What is the main reason you would support passenger rail?**

Concerns: Passenger Rail

- **What concerns do you have about establishing passenger rail? (check all that apply)**

Cost/taxes_____ Noise_____ Safety_____ Ridership levels_____

Environmental impact_____ Property impacts_____ Government spending_____

Other_____

- **What would make you less likely to support passenger rail?**

Funding & Public Investment

- **How comfortable are you with public funds being used to support passenger rail?**

Not comfortable_____ → Comfortable_____ Very comfortable_____

- **Would you support passenger rail if it required a small increase in local or state taxes?**

Yes_____ No_____ Unsure_____

- **Would you support passenger rail if it were funded primarily through state or federal grants?**

Yes_____ No_____ Unsure_____

Open-Ended Insight

- **What is the most important factor we should consider when evaluating passenger rail?**

- **Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?**

Demographics

- **Age range:** 18 – 25_____ 26 – 40_____ 41 – 60_____ 61+_____

- **What town/city do you live in?** _____

- **Do you commute out of town?** Yes_____ No_____

- **Do you provide transportation for others (family to medical appts., etc.)?** Yes_____ No_____

Yes

- **Do you currently lack reliable transportation?** Yes_____ No_____