

Harwinton Economic Development Commission
May 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:32 p.m. Commissioners present: Chair Kerrie Ouellette, Vice-Chair Thomas Schoenemann, Secretary John DiCarlo, Jon Sederquist and Franci Tartaglino.

2. On a motion made by Mr. DiCarlo and seconded by Mr. Schoenemann, the commission unanimously voted to approve adoption of the agenda

3. On a motion made by Mr. Schoenemann and seconded by Ms. Ouellette, the commission unanimously voted to approve Minutes of the commission's 04/03/13 Special Meeting.

4. Commissioners discussed results of an online survey on what business owners listed in the Business Directory would like in an incubator site. To date, 18 responses have been received. Ms. Ouellette reviewed the results to date and reported that free wi-fi was the most requested feature in a potential incubator, with multiple responses interested in professional development workshops, networking opportunities and assistance with marketing and public relations.

Ms. Ouellette placed a call to commissioner Steve Criss, who was unable to attend in person but joined the meeting on speakerphone regarding survey results. Commissioners agreed to table pursuit of an incubator space until there is more substantial interest. It was agreed not to establish a facility that is based on what commissioners think local, typically home-based businesses require, but to instead hold off on the initiative until more direct input from such businesses is received to create a truly useful facility.

5. Ms. Ouellette said she had spoken with First Selectman Michael Criss about sending a form with tax bills asking whether taxpayers would like their businesses added to the Business Directory. However, it is uncertain what the exact cost will be to include a form with tax bills. Commissioners unanimously agreed to ask the Board of Selectman to send inquiry forms annually at this time as a valuable investment in learning more about the local business community.

6. Ms. Tartaglino discussed the C-Pace program and how it can help local businesses and municipalities save long term costs of purchasing energy efficient equipment and fixtures. Commissioners agreed that Ms. Tartaglino would attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting to advocate that town participate in the program as a municipality and promote it to local businesses.

7. Public Participation. There were no members of the public present.

8. On a motion made by Mr. DiCarlo and seconded by Ms. Tartaglino, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. *Respectfully submitted by John DiCarlo, secretary.*

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 5-3-13 AT 12:20 pm
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK