

Harwinton Economic Development Commission

October 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Called to Order at 6:37 p.m. Commissioners present: Chair Kerrie Ouellette, Secretary John DiCarlo, Steve Criss, Jon Sederquist and Franci Tartaglino.
2. On a motion made by Mr. DiCarlo and seconded by Ms. Tartaglino, the commission unanimously voted to approve adoption of the agenda
3. On a motion made by Ms Ouelette and seconded by Mr. Sederquist, the commission unanimously voted to approve Minutes of the commission's 09/04/13 Special Meeting.
4. Commissioners noted an additional business listing was received in the commission's Town Hall mailbox. Ms. Ouelette informed commissioners that she had received a verbal complaint from a town business regarding other directory listings in town where the proprietor may primarily operate from an out of town office but are listed in directory because they reside in Harwinton.

After discussion, on a motion made by Mr. DiCarlo and seconded by Ms. Tartaglino, commissioners unanimously voted to contact all businesses in the directory that are not currently listed as having a Harwinton address, asked to provide a Harwinton address as the primary place of doing business, verifiable by DBA or LLC listing. If a business cannot do so, it will be removed from the directory. Ms. Ouellette volunteered to contact the businesses impacted.

5. Commissioners discussed individual research assignments. Ms. Ouellette provided commissioners a list potential zoning regulations that commissioners can consider recommending that the zoning commission revise to make Harwinton more friendly to appropriate businesses.

Mr. DiCarlo reported that his search for available commercial properties has been more involved than anticipated, that commercial property listings are not as easily available as residential listings. He said he plans to contact the Assessors Office and First Selectman's office for assistance in obtaining information from the town's database of commercial properties.

Ms. Tartaglino volunteered to contact towns similar to Harwinton to inquire what incentives have been effective in attracting appropriate economic development.

Commissioners discussed creating annual awards for Harwinton businesses, including categories that recognize contributions to the community, beautification and unsung hero. Commissioners DiCarlo and Criss agreed to present a proposed set of criteria to the community early in 2014.

6. Commissioners discussed contacting businesses to inquire about donating the Harwinton Food Pantry and Hometown Holiday celebration. The commission agreed to take no formal action but that Ms. Tartaglino would place a notice in Harwinton's newsletter regarding the topics.

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

8. On a motion made by Mr. Criss and seconded by Mr. Sederquist, the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. *Respectfully submitted by John DiCarlo, secretary.*