

Town of Harwinton
Economic Development Commission
Minutes: July 27, 2011

Attendance: Tom Schoenemann, Christina Emery, Kevin Nelson, Kerri Ouellette, Franci Tartaglino, Steve Criss

1. Call to Order

Tom Schoenemann called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Minutes

Upon motion by Kevin Nelson, seconded by Kerri Oulette the minutes from May 26, 2011 were approved.

4. Comments from the Chair

Tom Schoenemann reported that he attended the Business Roundtable with Governor Malloy and the new DECD Commissioner at the NW CT Chamber. There were questions about paid sick leave, and not much information applicable to small towns.

5. Committee Progress Reports

- a) Harwinton Business Database – Christina Emery will divide the list into groups of 20 businesses at each time for each Commissioner to begin to make phone calls.
- b) Business Survey Questionnaire - The survey was reviewed. There was a general discussion on how to handle home offices and the Commission decided to add the question: "Are your operations based in Harwinton or out of town?" Tom suggested that we each begin with five businesses to first determine the effectiveness of the questionnaire. Christina will look into Survey Monkey to help with the survey and tabulate data.
- c) EDC Website - Christina distributed the draft EDC webpage and will send it to the Technology Committee for posting on the town website. Franci created a FaceBook page for Harwinton news, it is accessible at www.Facebook.com/harwinton.

6. Booth at Harwinton Fair

The Commission decided to hold off on a booth until next year.

7. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

8. New Business

There was general discussion on the new floor tax and its impact to local small businesses (restaurants and package stores). The Commission discussed communicating information about this issue and other such issues to our state elected officials on behalf of our local small businesses. It was suggested that this could be done by participating in the Chamber's Government Relations Committee.

The Commission discussed the ZEO's efforts to enforce the regulation regarding temporary signage. The EDC will request to attend an upcoming Zoning Commission meeting to discuss the procedure for putting out signs and how can businesses go about the process. Commissioners will collect information on sign regulations from surrounding towns and report back at the next EDC meeting. Assignments: Kerri – Harwinton, Kevin- Goshen, Torrington, Litchfield, Tom – Plymouth, and Steve – New Hartford.

Due to vacation schedules, the next meeting will be a special meeting on Thursday September 1st, Kerri will chair the meeting.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Emery,
Recording Secretary

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ON 8-2-11 AT 10:27 AM
ATTEST: PATRICIA K. WILLIAMSEN, TOWN CLERK