

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 26, 2013  
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Beebe, Bresnahan, Dorgan, Ferrigno, Hirschorn, Thompson  
Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Ferrigno.

Public Comment

- No public comment was received.

Approval of Minutes

- June 27, 2013 – Hirschorn MOVED, Thompson SECONDED approval of the minutes with a correction to note that Thompson seconded the motion to approve the March minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

- **Business Activity.** Painter and Hart updated the Commission on recent business openings including Maharaja in Mansfield Center, One Tribe in Storrs Center and Webster Bank in Storrs Center. Painter also noted several businesses scheduled to open in the next several months at Storrs Center and business expansion projects underway at Public America gas station, Charles River Labs and Mansfield Self Storage. Painter and Hart also gave an overview of the new Town Square design.
- **Events.** Dorgan reported on the Coventry EDC event on alternative wastewater treatment systems that she attended in July, noting that the system described appears to hold potential for remediating failed systems and helping to allow more intensive commercial development in areas without access to a public sewer system.
- **Chamber of Commerce/MBPA.** Hart noted that the MBPA has not met recently and that the Director of the Windham Chamber has retired.

Old Business

1. **Water Supply EIE.** Hart and Painter updated the Commission on the University's identification of Connecticut Water Company (CWC) as the preferred alternative. Hart noted that several town committees had reviewed the CWC proposal at the request of the Town Council and identified issues that should be addressed in an agreement between CWC and the Town, including routing, regional representation on the stakeholder advisory board, water conservation and development controls.
2. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Painter provided an update on recent activities and advised the Commission that she expects to have a draft of the goals, strategies and actions for their review in October.

New Business

3. **Developing an EDC Work Plan.** The Commission initiated discussions of things that they might like to include in a work plan, including:
  - Metrics – Identifying existing businesses, tracking openings and closings, tracking changes in grand list
  - Business Satisfaction – Getting a better understanding of the current business climate through a survey, focus groups, or meet and greets
  - Recruitment – Developing an understanding of what business types we are missing in Mansfield using the new Economic Development Strategy as a starting point and refining through discussions with existing businesses
  - Regional Coordination – Initiating quarterly or semi-annual discussions with other area EDCs
  - Business Visitation – Developing a business visitation program with EDC members as ambassadors, staff would prepare a welcome/informational packet

- Business Recognition/Support – Members gave examples of what other area communities are doing, including framed certificates for new businesses as part of welcome package (Tolland) and ‘Cash Mobs’ (Willimantic) where each month a business is chosen and promoted to encourage local support.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda M. Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development