

WINDHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes - DRAFT

Windham Community Development Department Conference Room

May 19, 2011

Present: Chairman Ralph Valentine; Amy Spencer, Secretary; members, Bev Donovan (GSCC), Paul Gosselin, Sy Wrenn (Planning Board), Bob Young, and Al Letizio

Absent:

Excused: Phil LoChiatto (Selectmen), Jay Yennaco , Sally D'Angelo, Diane Wasilisian

Chairman Valentine opened the meeting at 7:37 a.m.

Review of Minutes of May 13, 2011: Bob suggested roll call include ex officio members moving forward. Motion by Bob Young to accept the minutes as amended seconded by Bev Passed 6.0.1 (Al Letizio)

Amended as follows:

- Roll call list to identify ex-officio members (Selectmen Rep., Planning Board Rep. & Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce – GSCC – Rep.)
- Motion to adjourn made by Paul, seconded by Sy passed (6,0,0)
- Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM

Strategic Plan:

Discussion of what role the 2010 Community Survey should play in the Strategic Planning process. The consensus of the group is that a review of the Survey data to determine implications and draft Committee positions should be added to Goal #5 as Strategy #1.

Bev suggested that the more we link the public feedback with our goals the more effective we will be.

Chairman Valentine opened the discussion of the Strategic Plan outline and reminded the committee that we agreed to focus on the Strategy level only to expedite discussion.

Goal 4, Strategy 1

Group consensus to accept as written with the following comment:

Paul Gosselin suggested that it might be best for him to abstain from items on the TRC Agenda that does not correlate with the goals and strategic plan of the WEDC.

Strategy 2

Group consensus to accept as written with the following comments:

Sy Wrenn stated that he would strongly suggest that the WEDC as a committee communicate to the public the common sense reasons for zoning changes or amendments.

Strategy 3

Group consensus to accept as written with the following comments:
Bev Donovan stated that we should be in front of not behind a developer.
Paul Gosselin suggested that we should be behind “development” because that is part of our mission.

Strategy 4

Group consensus to accept as written with the following comments: Group consensus to change this Strategy to read: “Support Community Development Department **including it’s budget** and **consider and take position** on warrant articles...”

Goal 5, Strategy 1

Review and interpret the survey. Paul and Al feel that this should be handled by a smaller focus subcommittee. Suggesting that it would probably be easier for the existing Survey Subcommittee to handle it due to their familiarity with the content.

Strategy 2

Sy Wrenn asked for clarification about the type of expos. Bev suggested that we would get into trouble supporting or showcasing specific parcels. Instead highlighting the attributes of our Zoning Map. Al suggested that we should just educate and highlight available property.

Strategy 3

Group consensus to accept as written with the following comments: Group consensus to change wording to read: “**Provide** periodic updates on economic development via the **media**.”

Goal 6, Strategy 1

Discussion about the frequency of surveys. Bev suggested that it might be best to schedule our survey to take place the year before the review of the master plan.

Ralph agreed to leave it on the Plan with the intention to discuss the interval of them at a later time.

Bev suggested that it should also be our role to educate and do outreach to small groups within the town as well as the permitting groups.

Paul suggested that this should be divided into two categories.

Regarding Laura Scott’s e-mailed question about new Windham business grand openings, celebrations and business after hours type events, Chairman Valentine suggested and the group agreed that “while we support and participate via our attendance at these events, we will not organize or plan the facilitation of these events.”

This committee will have standing subcommittees to discover details that require action prior to developments of these parcels and areas. Bob stated that we would have to identify the areas and the resource needs and selecting the committee members to address these issues.

Next Meeting Friday, June 10th 7:30 AM.
Friday, June 24th 7:30 AM

Motion to Adjourn at 9:05 AM

All Motioned Second by Paul 6.0.0

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Amy Spencer