

## Wilton Economic Development Committee – Meeting Minutes September 9, 2015

Attendees: Lee Wilson, Bob Sabo, Peter Gaboriault, Dave Clune, Guest Council Member Mike Kaelin?

The meeting was called to order at 7:25

Note that the Commission did not meet in August.

Minutes from July Meeting were approved.

Chairman suggested getting input from the Council on future EDC activities. Mr. Kaelin suggested identifying several projects that EDC could champion. He discussed aggressively getting businesses into Wilton. Integrate services and amenities with the business in Town. For example, businesses on RT 7 feel isolated from amenities in Town Center. Use the NRVT to link business to amenities in Wilton. But it needs to be coordinated.

Bridgewater is an example of a target business to move to Town. Bridgewater is a financial services/hedge fund company. Such a company would find our train station would be an asset as some employees reverse commute into CT. Member Wilson suggested targeting companies in Stamford as many come from this area and traffic is a huge. But how do we find them. Mr. Kaelin suggested starting with Business owners in Wilton who may want to relocate. How? The lack of large undeveloped parcels in Wilton hinders our ability to relocate large numbers of people.

Mr. Kaelin emphasized the importance economic development plays in keeping taxes stable. The Council would be receptive to proposals from the Commission to that effect. Chairman Peter discussed the Gilbert and Bennet property and an example of Town owned property that could be developed and serve as a catalyst for more development.

Wilton has many underutilized assets like the Clune Center and Field house. Can they be exploited to increase the amenities we can offer businesses?

Member Wilson discussed actions that might have to be taken to provide Planning and Zoning adjustments. For example, a hotel proposed in the iPark parcel in Wilton was not pursued because of site restrictions on how high (floors) a hotel could be. The parcel is 12 acres in Wilton. Any example discussed what Davis property at 50 Danbury to increase parking by allowing lot coverage from 20% to 25%. Member Wilson mentioned that this was more in line with other towns.

Member Clune began discussions of the Fall Event plans. The Brubeck room has been contacted with several dates in October, the 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>? The theme is "What is your one good idea for economic development in Wilton" Mr. Clune also asked the Chamber of Commerce to help support the event. Promotion would be through Good Morning Wilton plus other activities. Mr. Kaelin will be the VP for Civic Affairs for the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Council Liaison to the EDC.

There will be a link on the web invitation for people to sign up and submit their ideas. Budget for the event is \$1750 and we are in budget.

Member Sabo suggested that the Town website include a prominent link to the EDC site. Chairman Gaboriault will follow up.

The next meeting will be held on October

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM