

Wilton Economic Development Commission
Wilton Center Working Group MINUTES
10/27/2017
11AM – Wilton Library (Rimer Room)

NOTE: as this was a working group meeting and no votes were made, quorum was not required.

1. Introduction.

Attendees:

- John Kelly – EDC
- Debra Hansen – Chamber
- Susan Goldman – Chamber
- Tom Sato – Chamber and Business Owner
- Phil Lauria – EDC and Business Owner
- Vivian Lee-Shiue – EDC
- Dan Berg – EDC and SIMM
- John DiCenzo – Chamber and Business Manager
- John Wilson – EDC

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2017 NOV - 3 A 11: 14
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2. Background of initiative –

- Brief discussion of history of the discussions, purpose, research done to date and possible objective of the group.
- John Kelly introduced the draft mission statement that the working group came up with in the summer.
- The group discussed why the intent is to limit to Wilton Center only – group agreed that we need to frame this more concretely, but agreed that a "Community is often defined by its town center."

3. Discussion points from Westport, Ridgefield

- John K. provided some background about his discussions with Ridgefield, Westport and New Canaan.
- The group acknowledged that in the cases of Westport and Ridgefield, there appears to be some competition between the downtown associations and the Chamber. In New Canaan, this appears to be more integrated.
- In all of the cases listed above, the formation of the downtown groups initiated from individuals who felt the need to separate the efforts of the chamber from the downtown groups. In the case of New Canaan, there are attempts to re-integrate the effort.

4. Applicability for Wilton – a list of possible constituents was outlined:

- Parks and Rec
- Conservation
- Chamber
- EDC
- Garden Club
- Department of Public Works
- Developers
- Wilton Center Business Owners
- Wilton Police
- NRVT
- Planning and Zoning Commission

5. Open Discussion - all

6. Next Steps – possible meeting on November 10. Extend invite to others as appropriate