

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE
December 10, 2015
5:00 PM
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
23 Royce Circle**

MINUTES

Present: Curt Hirsh, Rene Schein
Guest: Kim Cash, owner of Bliss Boutique
Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

1. Call to Order

Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm called the meeting to order in Chair Steve Rogers' place at 5:08 pm. Mr. Rogers was delayed in traffic.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2015

There was no quorum to approve the minutes.

4. Guest – Kim Cash, owner of Bliss Boutique

Curt Hirsch and Rene Schein provided background on why they joined the Committee. Ms. Schein said her initial interest was ensuring that the businesses in the development footprint were respected regarding relocation. With respect to the development aspect of the Committee's mission, she wants to work to encourage businesses to locate in the downtown.

Mr. Hirsch said he initially came to Storrs to open a pizza business. He thought Storrs Center would go a long way to help with the Town's tax burden which was heavily reliant on state revenues.

Kim Cash said she opened Bliss in Willimantic in 2013. She opened her store in Storrs Center about a week ago. She is looking forward to more stores opening near her location on Wilbur Cross Way. Ms. Cash said she will be opening Pearl, a jewelry store, and Salt, a gift store, in the coming year, adjacent to her boutique.

Ms. Schein and Mr. Hirsch suggested a few local artists who may be able to supply retail inventory to Ms. Cash.

Ms. Cash agreed to join the Committee.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.