

MINUTES
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Special Meeting – Regional Economic Development Forum
Thursday, May 28, 2015
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: S. Ferrigno (Chair), J. McGuire, R. Beebe, K. Dorgan, D. Fecho, M. Hirschorn, A. Marcellino (ex-officio), G. Thompson
Staff present: Matt Hart, Town Manager; Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development; Cynthia vanZelm, Executive Director, Mansfield Downtown Partnership; Kevin Filchak, Intern

Informal Walking tour of Storrs Center:

Ferrigno called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. After introductions, Hart and van Zelm led a walking tour of Storrs Center for those interested; Fecho joined the tour in progress. The following members participated in the tour: Ferrigno, McGuire, Beebe, Thompson, Marcellino and Fecho (6:18 p.m).

Call to Order

Ferrigno reconvened the meeting in the Council Chamber at 7:10 p.m. New introductions were made as several additional people had arrived at the Council Chamber while the walking tour was underway. Representatives from the following communities were present: Ashford, Bolton, Coventry, Tolland, Windham, and Windham.

Keynote Speaker

Steve Ferrigno introduced Tim Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. Sullivan spoke on three topics related to economic development in Eastern Connecticut. After his presentation, he answered questions from community representatives and others present in the audience.

Discussion of current initiatives

Representatives from the various communities provided updates on current initiatives in their towns, including POCD updates in Ashford, Bolton and Mansfield; a new business organization and buy local program in Ashford; an update on the Coventry Farmers Market, Coventry Village sidewalk projects and a strategic arts plan in Coventry; an update on projects in Mansfield including Storrs Center, Four Corners infrastructure projects and UConn initiatives; and an update on projects in Windham including the recently created position of Economic Development Director. Representatives discussed ways in which communities could work together to promote the region during events such as the international puppetry festival scheduled for August and the Columbus Day weekend soccer tournament in Windham. Hart suggested two potential ideas to assist with coordination: a regional EDC listserv and the creation of a regional marketing/promotion committee with one to two representatives from each Economic Development Commission.

Adjournment: Ferrigno adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Painter, AICP

Director of Planning and Development