

DRAFT NOTES
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – Thursday, January 28, 2016
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members Present: J. McGuire, G. Thompson, D. Fecho, M. Hirschorn, A. Marcellino (ex officio)

Staff Present: Matthew Hart, Town Manager (6:30 p.m.); Linda Painter, Director of Planning; Kevin Filchak, Graduate Intern

J. McGuire called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Public Comment: R. Hossack, Middle Turnpike and D. Freudmann, Eastwood Road, addressed the Commission and urged the EDC to oppose the Project Green Space proposal.

Approval of Minutes: Due to a lack of quorum, minutes were tabled until February EDC meeting.

Old Business:

1. Green Bank Solar Leases for Commercial Properties: No update on project.
2. 2016 Monthly Meeting Topics: It was decided that the discussion on Agricultural businesses in Mansfield originally to be discussed in February, will be rescheduled for the March EDC meeting. The February EDC meeting will have instead a review of current projects and initiatives.

New Business:

1. Presentation on Windham Arts Program, presenter Mary Oliver, Program Coordinator: Mary Oliver presented an overview of Windham Arts, the designated service organization for arts, culture, history and tourism for 22 communities in the northeast corner of Connecticut, and the services they provide through various programs such as online listings, a regional magazine, and radio programs. Oliver expressed interest in partnering with local EDCs and other organizations such as UConn on regional economic development and tourism initiatives.
2. Alcoholic Liquor Permits: Painter updated the Commission on the current status on the update to the Town's Alcoholic Liquor regulations and the need for a referendum to expand the list of allowable liquor permits to include brewpubs.
3. Project Green Space: Painter and Hart provided an overview of a concept for proposed legislation being promoted by the Audobon Society, noting that the Town Council had referred the matter to committee for review. Members expressed concern regarding impacts of the proposal. Marcellino suggested that the Commission issue formal comments opposing Project Green Space in response to the Town Council referral. McGuire suggested continuing to the matter to February for further discussion and a formal vote to convey the Commission's recommendation to the Town Council.

Reports:

- Staff Update. Painter noted that draft zoning regulations had been sent to the Commission for review and would be discussed at the February meeting. At the request of McGuire, Hart gave an update on the current tax appeal at Storrs Center.

Adjournment: McGuire adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.