

Minutes are considered "Draft" until approved at the next meeting. Please contact the Economic Development Office for a copy of final minutes.

Attachment 1

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

DATE: November 8, 2017
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

Present

Augusto Russell Dan Kleinman
Brian Connolly John Karwoski
Robert Reeve Gary Palumbo-6:10PM

Staff

Rose Ponte

a. Call to Order

a. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

b. Public Comment

c. Reading of the Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 13, 2017 minutes. (Kleinman/ Karwoski).

d. 1 Waterville Road Presentation- Withdrawn

e. Plan of Conservation and Development Amendment Presentation- Bill Warner

Bill Warner presented 'Be Smart, Be Prepared - Planning – Business, Financial, Town Certainty' PowerPoint to explain various present and projected demographic trends in Farmington. After experiencing growth since 1982, the town is now faced with some uncertainty due to an older population, lack of available undeveloped land, decline in new single family home construction and a decrease in demand for single homes on large lots. Bill outlined the areas of town where growth will occur and what needs to be done to accommodate that growth.

Chairman Russell allowed public participation following the presentation.

Jay Bombara: Asked if the EDC was voting on the POCD amendment. Chairman Russell explained that Bill was presenting to the EDC to receive feedback and explained the amendments that will be presented to the TPZ on November 15, 2017. It was explained that the EDC is an advisory board appointed by the Town Council and they don't have jurisdiction on TPZ matters.

Jay Bombara inquired what statute enabled Bill Warner to propose an innovative zone, and he expressed concern about the process. He encouraged Bill to discuss these amendments with community groups in order to gather their input. He also inquired about traffic and infrastructure changes to support the amendments.

Barbara Taussig questioned the sources Bill used to obtain the demographic statistics. She questioned if more than one source was used.

Amanda Strauss asked when the zone was changed to allow for CA Senior Living to be approved.

Paul Kramer loved the vision of connectedness. He questioned if other towns similar to Farmington in character and size will also be experiencing the same declines as

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Bill mentioned in his presentation. He also emphasized that Farmington is well regarded and people want to come to Farmington so how can we be assured that the demographic demise will occur.

f. Economic Developer's Report

In addition to her monthly report Rose reported on

- the successful launch of ExploreFarmington.com . The website has 5 regular bloggers scheduled; Chelsea O'Donnell from Journey Communications will be presenting a Farmington Gift Guide and will write Small Business Saturday helpful hint blogs so small businesses can better participate.
- Farmington Bank renewed the business breakfast sponsorship. The next Business Breakfast is scheduled for January 24, 2017, John Delong, CEO from CCM will be the featured speaker.
- Brien Debari requested that he attend a future EDC meeting to see if a more formal partnership with the EDC can be established. Rose will invite him to the December meeting.
- The Holiday Kissing Balls will be installed on November 21, 2018. Rose will issue press releases and contact local papers.
- Meeting dates for 2018- Commissioners agreed to continue meeting during the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30. The regularly scheduled EDC meeting for December 6th will be changed to accommodate several schedules. Rose will survey commissioners via email to find a date that everyone can make.

g. Town Council Liaison Report – Nothing to report

h. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (Connolly /King) to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm

1. **Approved unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Ponte
Economic Development Director
CC: Economic Development Commissioners