



**Windham Economic Development Committee (WEDC) Minutes
Friday, January 13, 2023**

Attendance: Dale Valvo, Gary Garfield, Kristi St. Laurent, Clare Macoul, Derek Monson (Planning Board ex officio), Ashley Haseltine (Greater Salem CoC ED, arr. 7:48am), James Rondestvedt (zoom 7:40am)

Alex Mello (Community Development Director)
Sylvia von Aulock, Southern NH Planning Commission Executive Director

Meeting opened at 7:35 am

Minutes of 12/9/2022 reviewed. Motion to approve by D Valvo. Second by C Macoul. Motion to pass 4-0-2 with G Garfield and D Monson abstaining for not having been present.

Subcommittee updates –

Infrastructure – presented by Gary Garfield

Gary Garfield, Mike Oldenberg, Matthew Swoboda and Dale Valvo met with A Mello

Water line – and focus arrival of water line on devevelopment along Route 28

A Mello did the ‘heavy lift’ – collecting the data.

19 residential sign ups

3 commercial sign ups

Projects in works

Can get higher density with water line d/t no well radius

Clean water, desired quantity 72% of 2015 survey respondents indicated that water quality and quantity was important to them

Cheaper to develop one pipe up a street than to dig multiple wells

Town does not require hookups

When task assigned, there was no mechanism in place to track water and sign ups

There is now through the CDD and the permitting process

Subcom feels the work is done on this topic

Discussed Infrastructure is roads and bridges. The traffic study was put out to bid by DOT 3 years ago and has not been touched. Need team effort with planning commission, state legislators, WEDC, CDD, BOS, PB. A Mello has been touching base with DOT every three months but keeps getting excuses. If we want to get serious about traffic on 111 we need to pull together.

D Monson asked if Wendy Jonson is still in charge of scoping. Cass said there was a town that had a traffic study funded, done, and then town decided not to do what was recommended. If we get widened road, it will make our route easier so more people will come that way, increasing traffic more?

K St. Laurent – that’s what happened with 111 re-route and easier access to 93 through Windham than dropping down to 495 and to 93 from Atkinson, Hampstead, etc.

C Macoul – the traffic is here – how can we manage it?

K St. Laurent – sync the lights and make what we have work, make the traffic flow

D Monson – meet with Cass and get what we have to work

G Garfield – get the study so what the answer is is in the queue since it takes years to get on to and accomplished on the 10 year plan.

A Haseltine suggested Senator Birdsell as a voice

A Mello Signals by the Gateway project are by developer when that takes off

Will continue to reach out via departments

K St. Laurent – the timing was not done, the development should have to adjust for change in traffic counts from their project, not fix the problem that already exists

D Monson will reachout to Cass. Will call

K St. Laurent will support joint letter PB/WEDC

S von Aulock – they can help with 10-year plan process for DOT.

Update from Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director of the Southern NH Planning Commission.

SNHPC has been awarded a bit of funding to assist our region’s communities with economic development work. Some of the funding has been allocated to update the region’s CEDS. SNHPC hopes to work with our neighboring Regional Planning Commissions in creating an Economic Development District. Wants to let Windham WEDC know that if we have a specific request, we may be able to assist. Our funding unfortunately runs out by June 30th.

15-20 hours available, could be used for:

Review of zoning – how to attract the business the town wants

Review of parking regs and requirements and usage

Discussion of having an alternate to the SNHPC, S von Aulock mentioned we need a representative on the TAC, the traffic committee meets the Third Thursday 9:30-11 Commission fourth Tuesday, 11:30-1. Sometimes the third Tuesday.

Old/New Business:

Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce Events:

March 30th, Economic Development Breakfast 7:30-9:30am

Jan 23rd – Concord Update – 7:30-9:15 at Scottish Highlands – registration on website

Motion to adjourn by C Macoul, second by G Garfield. Vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by K St. Laurent