

WOODBIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Present:** Jody Ellant, Kate Brown, Herbert Mendelsohn, Yaron Baitch

**Absent:** Robert Leonard, Jamison Scott, Jeremy Rosner

**Guest:** Vasilisa Romanenko, Palette Art Studio, 245 Amity Road

As no quorum was present, the minutes from January meeting were not approved and no motions were presented for Commission consideration.

Jody announced that the town's budget for the EDC includes a line item for administrative assistance. With the retirement of Lynne Anglace from her town employment, the town will include in a new job description for a new clerical employee the responsibility to assist the commission in its clerical duties, especially the recording of Commission meeting minutes.

Jody announced that Geri Shaw will be serving as town liaison to the Commission and that, going forward, materials related to Commission meetings will be distributed to Commission members electronically.

Yaron provided a summary of his presentation on cybersecurity in anticipation of the discussion at the next Wisdom of Woodbridge lecture series being sponsored by the town at which Yaron is the scheduled presenter. That lecture is scheduled for March 22, 2016 at the JCC from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Yaron will also be leading the next EDC breakfast networking session that's scheduled for April 13th at 7:30 a.m. at the JCC.

Jody announced the scheduling of upcoming special meetings which she encouraged EDC members to attend. These include:

EDC Breakfast sponsored by AvanGrid (UI), 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., March 3, 2016  
EnergizeCT Center, 122 Universal Drive, North Haven

Country Club of Woodbridge discussion  
Senior Center Cafeteria  
February 18, March 10 -- 7:00 p.m.

Outreach to Business Clusters of Woodbridge with First Selectman Ellen Scalettar,  
Town Hall

Real estate professionals -- February 17, 9:00 a.m.

Healthcare Professionals -- April 15, 5:00 p.m.

The next business networking happy hour is scheduled for March 29 at New England Brewing, 175 Amity Road, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Vasilisa Romanenko introduced her new business in Woodbridge, Palette Art Studio, located at 245 Amity Road. Woodbridge is the second location for this studio, the first location being in Cheshire for 19 years. Ms. Romanenko pointed out that the demographics of Woodbridge, the the positive town atmosphere that encourages cultural development, and the make up of the current student body of the studio were contributing factors in her decision to expand into Woodbridge. The studio provides a range of art instruction to both adults and children in oil and watercolor painting and drawing with many students developing art portfolios which can be used as part of a college application and for scholarships. Students range from 4 years old to adults. The studio provides open gallery space and presents an annual exhibition for its students. Kate and Jody suggested that the studio reach out to the JCC as another space for a gallery exhibition and to participate in the annual scarecrow festival sponsored by the town.

Jody announced that a meeting will be held with the state DOT concerning a DOT road safety audit and input regarding specific locations in the town that impact bicycle and pedestrian safety. This meeting is scheduled for February 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Jody noted that she had met with First Selectman Scalletar regarding a proposal to the state DOT to extend the Conn. Transit bus route in Woodbridge to include a bus stop in the vicinity of Bradley Road.

Jody advised that a part-time town planner has been hired by the town and also that the town will be looking to retain a consultant to on signage design for the town logo on the website and for town signs that will be erected at the main entrance points into town.

It was pointed out that not all members of the Commission are receiving notices of CEDA/CERC meetings and newsletters advising EDC members of CEDA/CERC events and meetings. Jody pointed out that the town is a member of CEDA and that EDC members are entitled to attend the various CEDA events. She will follow up with the town to make sure that new EDC members are included in the CEDA data base.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Herbert I. Mendelsohn*  
Recording Secretary