

## ***Durham Economic Development Commission Special Meeting Minutes***

March 28, 2016

### **Call to order**

Chair Alana Simlick called to order the special meeting of the Durham Economic Development Commission at 6:40 pm on March 28, 2016 at The Durham Activity Center, 350 Main Street, Durham, CT 06422.

### **Roll call**

Chair Alana Simlick conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Janet Morganti, Kim Ryder, Alana Simlick., and Tom Stephan and Vicki Iaccarino.

**Absent:** Christine Geraci

**Others Attending:** The Durham EDC welcomed special guest, Susan Malan, The Economic Consultant for Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook. As the EDC consultant for all three towns, Susan acts as the first point of contact for prospective business owners. She considers herself as a matchmaker that finds the perfect spot for new businesses. Guidelines are in place to include the steps to opening a business in these towns; something for our Durham EDC to consider doing.

Susan suggested that we contact the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments, or "RiverCOG" to help us learn of vacancies in industrial and commercial buildings in Durham. Another idea for us to listen to the needs of our existing businesses is to have social business gatherings. Having prospective businesses owners make a presentation to the EDC is another way to be the first contact for new, potential businesses. We want to make Durham an inviting place to do business.

Other suggestions from Susan to explore:

- **Tax Incentive Financing or TIF for developers.**
- **Become a member of the CT Main Street Center (<http://ctmainstreet.org/>) and use their resources.**
- **Institute a Welcome Wagon program.**
- **On an informal basis, meet with members of other EDC's to share ideas.**
- **Look into Sinking Funds to procure interns for data compilation, etc.**

The EDC thanked Susan for taking the time to meet with us.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Alana Simlick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Motion was made by Kim Ryder, seconded by Tom Stephan and approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7pm at the Durham Activity Center.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Janet Morganti