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5 **Economic Development Commission**  
6 **Regular Meeting Minutes**  
7 **November 5, 2018**  
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9 **Present:** Joe Mirra, Chair  
10 Jim Wolfe, Vice-Chair  
11 Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner  
12 Gary Fappiano, Commissioner  
13 Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner  
14 Rob Fritz, Alternate/Voting Member  
15 Ed Zavaski, Alternate/Voting Member  
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17 **Absent:** Hank Baum, Commissioner  
18 Mark Gingras, Commissioner  
19 Russ Mills, Alternate  
20 Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist  
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22 **Others Present:** Mike Brodinsky  
23 Lynn Wolff, Secretary  
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26 Chair Joe Mirra called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. and  
27 asked Ed Zavaski to serve as a voting member.  
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29 1. **Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 1, 2018** – Jim Wolfe made  
30 a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By a vote of 6  
31 yeases, the motion carried.  
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33 2. **Review of Monthly Expenditure Report** – No comments on the September report.  
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35 3. **Committee Reports**

36 • **Marketing –**

- 37 ➤ **Update on meeting discussion** – Patricia Cymbala said the Committee did not meet and had no  
38 further report.  
39 ➤ **Next meeting:** No next meeting has been scheduled.

40 • **P&Z Liaison –**

- 41 ➤ **Update on Committee activities** – Jim Wolfe reported that he attended the October IWWC  
42 meeting where BL Companies, the engineering company for Calare, appeared before the  
43 Commission. In Jim's opinion, "It was a disaster" with incomplete documents being sent to the  
44 Commission and yet more additional information being requested of the applicant. Also, the

45 Commission seemed to ignore the findings of the independent third party reviewer. As a result,  
46 Calare must again go before IWWC on November 7; Jim and Joe Mirra plan to attend. After the  
47 IWWC meeting, Jim said he apologized to the applicant for the treatment they have received thus  
48 far from the Town. On a positive note, Jim reported that the applicant was able to make a  
49 presentation before the PZC in October, even though final approval has not yet been given by  
50 IWWC.

51 Jim said he will continue to pursue the topic of reducing the open space requirement in  
52 Barnes Park but, after talking with the Town Planner and Mayor, recognizes that the discussion  
53 will not happen immediately.

54 ➤ **Next meeting** – No next meeting has been scheduled.

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56 Rob Fritz arrived at 6:40 p.m. and was asked to be a voting member.

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58 • **Retention/Incentives** –

59 ➤ **Update on Committee activities** – Gary Fappiano reminded the EDC about the change in dates  
60 for the upcoming company visits. The companies to be visited and EDC attendance was  
61 discussed.

62 ➤ **Next meeting** – Gary said the Committee hopes to meet on November 16 but needs to confirm  
63 the date and time with EDC Staff.

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65 4. **Chair's remarks** – Joe Mirra reported that the first 6-week course for the Pipeline Program for manufacturers  
66 has ended. Of the 20 candidates, 13 finished the course. Of these 13, 6 have had second interviews. He  
67 was very pleased with the outcome. The group will work with any candidates not hired to see if they fit better  
68 with another company.

69 Joe also reported he continues to work on the summer job program as well as working with Masonic to  
70 reboot their CNA program.

71 ➤ **Statewide Employment Pipeline** - Joe said that the State has bonded \$50 million for its program.

72 ➤ **Possible issues to be presented by Staff at upcoming Legislative Briefing** – No issues were  
73 suggested by the Commissioners.

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75 5. **Staff reports/regional matters** – Members were urged to read the October report as attached to the  
76 agenda.

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78 6. **Discussion and possible action on 2019 Meeting Schedule** – Jim Wolfe made a motion to accept the  
79 meeting schedule with one revision – change the first meeting date from January 7, 2018 to January  
80 7, 2019; Gary Fappiano seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

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82 7. **Dates to Remember** – Members were reminded about the company visits and the upcoming Big Connect.

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**8. Community Involvement** – Rob Fritz said he wanted to say what a great job Joe Mirra did with the pipeline project. Joe said it was a team effort. Joe believes the next time this program is offered it will get more responses. Gary Fappiano suggested enlisting more help from the BOE. Joe said BOE, CT Works, Adult Ed. and Workforce Alliance are already involved.

Joe Mirra said a big problem in our state is the “brain drain” where college students leave the state after graduation. Joe would like to get 15 college Juniors (if possible) into a summer jobs program – a positive experience might encourage grads to stay in CT. Gary Fappiano said his company utilizes interns from Quinnipiac College – he feels the program is very successful, both for his company and the intern.

Rob Fritz made his report on the Arts Council the Marketing Committee has been considering. Rob said he visited arts councils in New Haven and Milford. New Haven used a developer who purchased land and erected buildings; it’s a large-scale project. Milford’s arts council has been in existence for 15 years, utilizing an old train station for its home; anyone interested in the arts can pay a fee to join. Although they started out with a small group, they now have several hundred members, making the decision-making process difficult. Milford is considering managing the Council through a Board of Directors. The creation of a Wallingford Arts Council should be done slowly so as to do it right.

Rosemarie Preneta congratulated Rob Fritz for his part in the recent road race; he did a great job.

Ed Zavaski reminded the EDC that November 30 is the Holiday Stroll.

Joe Mirra thanked both Ed Zavaski and Russ Mills for their work on this Commission as their terms of office as EDC Alternates will end In December.

**There being no further business, Jim Wolfe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.; Patricia Cymbala seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary