



**Town of Wallingford**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**45 South Main Street, Room 311**  
**Wallingford, CT 06492**

**Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 6, 2025**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1/8/25  
AT 10:00 AM AND RECEIVED BY  
Mister Romo UG TOWN CLERK

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- Present:** Hank Baum, Chair  
 Frank Apuzzo, Commissioner  
 Anthony Bracale, Commissioner  
 Gary Gonzalez, Commissioner  
 Nick Lombardi, Commissioner  
 Dana Quigley, Commissioner  
 Carl Casper, Alternate  
 Austin McAnneny, Alternate
- Absent:** Rob Fritz, Commissioner
- Others Present:** Don Crouch, Economic Development Specialist  
 Stacie McCarthy, EDC Secretary  
 Barbara Malmberg- Director of Strategic Planning and Marketing – REX Development

Chair Hank Baum called the special meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Baum led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Guest Presentation** – **Barbara Malmberg – Director of Strategic Planning and Marketing – REX Development** provided an overview of REX Development and then presented the South Central Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2025 Annual Update. She explained why CEDS is important and gave an overview of the 15 South Central towns they work with and explained how key factors such as the workforce shortage and housing crisis effect the economic growth in these areas. Ms. Malmberg also discussed the regional progress of key sectors such as healthcare, higher education, manufacturing, bioscience, arts, culture and tourism, and entrepreneurship. She outlined the top challenges for 2025 and also suggested Commissioners could attend a 2025 Economic Outlook presentation by Manufacture CT on January 14, 2025 to learn more.
3. **Discussion on Consent Agenda:** Frank Apuzzo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Carl Casper seconded the motion. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.
4. **Nomination and Election of Officers** –
  - Chair Baum made a motion for Anthony Bracale to be Chairman. Frank Apuzzo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- 48 • **Nick Lombardi made a motion for Frank Apuzzo to be Vice Chairman. Hank Baum**
- 49 **seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.**
- 50

51 **5. Committee Reports:**

- 52 • **Marketing Committee** – no updates to report; however Anthony Bracale explained that with
- 53 his newly appointed role as Chairman of the EDC, he will no longer serve as Chairman of
- 54 Marketing Committee; however he will stay involved and transition work to the newly elected
- 55 Chairman of the Marketing Committee. Additionally the group discussed the importance of
- 56 continuing marketing initiatives such as business visits. Mr. Crouch explained that business
- 57 visits will resume and a schedule is being coordinated with the Mayor's office. Discussions
- 58 will continue at a future meeting.
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- 60 • **P&Z Committee** – Hank Baum provided a brief update regarding the data center explaining
- 61 the Host Agreement must go through various processes including PU/WED, Planning and
- 62 Zoning, Inlands Wetlands, Town Council etc.
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65 **6. New Business:**

- 66 • No new business to discuss.
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68 **7. Staff Report** – Mr. Crouch noted some of the updates on his report including meeting with a new  
69 manufacturer interested in moving to town with the potential for 30 new jobs; meeting with Town  
70 Planner, current business owner and architect to discuss parking downtown; a meeting with developers  
71 interested in opportunities within the transit-oriented district; participated in the town department  
72 legislative session; as well as implemented ZoomProspector on the town's website.

74 **8. Chair's remarks** – Chair Baum thanked former Commissioner Gary Fappiano for his past service to  
75 the Economic Development Commission.  
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79 **There being no further business, Frank Apuzzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.;**  
80 **Nick Lombardo seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

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82  
83 Sincerely,

84 *Stacie McCarthy*

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86  
87 Stacie McCarthy, Secretary