



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

Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026

Present:

Anthony Bracale, Chair
Frank Apuzzo, Vice Chair
John Bau, Alternate
Gary Gonzalez, Commissioner
Susan Gomes, Alternate
Austin McAnney, Commissioner
Amy Souchuns, Alternate

Absent

Carl Casper, Commissioner
Rob Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Lombardi, Commissioner

Others Present:

Don Crouch, Economic Development Specialist
Stacie McCarthy, EDC Secretary

1. Call to Order: Chair Bracale called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:30p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Bracale led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Commissioner Souchuns arrived at 6:35PM)

3. Consent Agenda:

- **Commissioner Apuzzo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gomes seconded the motion. Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.**

4. Items removed from Consent: None

5. Reports:

a. Committee Reports:

Retention and Marketing Committee

No update.

Planning and Zoning Committee

Mr. Crouch updated the Commission related to upcoming Planning and Zoning Committee items:

- 1) Text Amendment – Section 1.4 and 6.34 and add Section 4.16.H-Cannabis #502-26
- 2) Special Permit (Adaptive Re-Use/Multi-Family Dwelling Units)/Malchiodi/ 386 Williams Rd. #401-26
- 3) Special Permit (Multi-Family Dwelling Units)/McInvale/ 1183 & 1185 Old Colony Rd. #402-26

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88

89
90

Housing/Workforce Development/Education Committee

Commissioner Bau provided the Commission with an overview of the upcoming Connecticut Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Career Fair that he is coordinating as part of his role as Assistant Dean for Student Experience and Career Development at Quinnipiac University. He noted the event is scheduled for March 31, 2026, from 3-6PM at the M&T Bank Arena, 305 Sherman Avenue, Hamden, CT. Commissioner Bau explained that 70+ technical employers from across Connecticut are scheduled to participate and the event is free for CT Employers and Job Seekers to attend. He also noted that bus transportation is offered across 8 campuses in Connecticut for students interested in attending. Commissioner Bau encouraged the Commissioners to share the event information within their networks as the event directly supports EDC workforce development initiatives.

Manufacturing Business Roundtables

Chair Bracale updated the Commission related to his work on coordinating manufacturer roundtable discussions. He noted that he has outlined a draft agenda and has categorized manufacturers in town as a starting point. He also explained that he would like other Commissioners to participate in the continued planning and execution of the project. Commissioner Bracale will share updates at future meetings.

b. Economic Development Specialist / Staff Report

Mr. Crouch provided updates in his Staff Report:

- The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) project continues to move forward, with several focus groups continuing to take place
- WCI and the Administration are planning for a visit from CT Main Street in early May
- Mr. Crouch, Town Planner Kevin Pagini met with new owners of Campus at Green Hill, 108 Leigus Road, relating to subdividing the property into multiple parcels
- Administration and Department Heads met with and reviewed multiple website vendors in anticipation of updating the current town website
- Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) has awarded the Town a \$125,000 Community Investment Act (CIA) Technical Assistance Planning Grant which will support a feasibility analysis of 320 Washington Street, the former Boathouse property, to determine the site's capacity for development of affordable senior housing units
- Mr. Crouch, Mayor Cervoni and Chairman Bracale attended a ribbon cutting at Creative Concepts, a wedding planner & bridal consignment shop that moved from Hamden, CT to 9 S. Colony Street, Wallingford
- Mr. Crouch, along with Administration and other department heads participated in a recent call with CTDOT regarding TOD Parcel prioritization project, in which CT DOT provided information related to sites being considered for continued study and future Transit Oriented Development (TOD), potentially including Wallingford
- Senator Cicarella has submitted a bonding request for \$3.5M to support refurbishment of the historic train station

91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122

c. Chairman Report

Chair Bracale serves on the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Steering Committee and noted that he recently received the minutes from the last meeting and will share those with the group for reference. He encouraged Commissioners to both complete the POCD survey and share it with family and friends in an effort to capture thoughts and opinions from as many Wallingford residents as possible.

He also noted the importance of EDC involvement in community activities and suggested that Commissioners offer suggestions as to topics to include in the Wallingford Magazine EDC Column.

6. Old Business:

No update

7. New Business:

No Update

8. Commission Around Town

Commissioner Bau noted that he recently visited Vuelvo Restaurant at 100 Quinnipiac Street on Chairman Bracale’s recommendation and agreed that it was a very nice experience. Chairman Bracale reminded the group of the importance of promoting and patronizing local business to help ensure their continued success.

There being no further business, Commissioner Apuzzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.; Commissioner Souchuns seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Sincerely,

Stacie McCarthy

Stacie McCarthy, Secretary