

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

February 26, 2021

TO: Members of the Economic Development Commission

FROM: Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist

Fyoy

SUBJECT: Regular VIRTUAL Meeting Agenda – Monday, March 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Link to meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/522509357

You can also dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): <u>1 866 899 4679</u> United States: <u>+1 (571) 317-3116</u>

Access Code: 522-509-357

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Discussion/possible action on Regular Virtual Meeting Minutes dated February 1, 2021 (Attach.) (VOTE)
- 3. Review of monthly Expenditure Report (Attach.)
- 4. Committee remarks
 - Marketing
 - Update on committee activities
 - > Next meeting:
 - P&Z Liaison
 - Update on committee activities
 - Next meeting:
 - Retention/Incentives
 - Update on committee activities
 - > Next meeting:
- 5. Chair's remarks
 - Discussion and possible action on FY2021-22 Budget (Attach.)
- 6. Staff report/regional matters February (Attach.)
- 7. Other community business

William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor

Town Clerk's Office (for posting)

Dates to Remember:

April 5 - EDC Reg. Virtual Mtg, 6:30

ec: EDC Members Town Council (via T. Clerk) Tom Talbot, P&Z

C:

Maribel Carrion, QCC Kathleen Lilley, WCI GovMedia NH Reg., Htfd. Courant, R-J Website Jessica Wysocki

Individuals in need of auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Town of Wallingford are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator at 203-294-2070 five days prior to meeting date.

tel: (203) 294-2062 · fax: (203) 294-2073 · edc@wallingfordct.gov · Plugin2Wallingford.com

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6	Econom	ic Development Commission
7	Regul	ar Virtual Meeting Minutes
8		February 1, 2021
9 10		
11	Present:	Joe Mirra, Chair
12 13		Hank Baum, Commissioner
14		Patricia Cymbala, Commissioner Gary Fappiano, Commissioner
15		Rosemarie Preneta, Commissioner *
16		Jim Wolfe, Commissioner
17 18		Rob Fritz, Alternate/Voting Member
19	Absent:	Mark Gingras, Vice-Chair
20 21		Anthony Bracale, Alternate
22	Others Present:	Tim Ryan, Economic Development Specialist
23		Lynn Wolff, Secretary
24 25		Kathy Lilley, Exec. Dir., WCI
26	Chair Joe Mirra called the regular vir	tual meeting of the Economic Development Commission to
27	order at 6:32 p.m. and asked Alterna	ate Fritz to serve as a voting member. Chair Mirra explained
28	how the EDC would conduct the virte	ual meeting.
29		
30	1. Pledge of Allegiance - Chair M	irra led the EDC in the Pledge of Allegiance.
31		
32	2. Discussion and Possible Action	on on Regular Virtual Meeting Minutes dated January 4, 2021
33	 Jim Wolfe made a motion to 	approve the minutes as drafted; Rob Fritz seconded the
34	motion. By a unanimous vote	, the motion carried.
35		
36	3. <u>Review of monthly Expenditur</u>	e Report – No questions on the December report.
37 38	4. Committee remarks	
39	Marketing	
40	> Update on comm	nittee activities – Patricia Cymbala reported that the Quinnipiac
41	Student Marketing	g Teams (SMT) are working hard to launch the digital marketing
42	program, which in	cludes social media campaigns and reworking the EDC landing

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43page on the website to mesh with Social Media. Patricia feels we've gotten more44than our money's worth as they've all done a great job.

45Rob Fritz agreed, saying they've put in a tremendous amount of effort and46have far exceed any expectations we had.

Tim Ryan told the EDC that the LinkedIn page is now live and encouraged 47 EDC members to connect to it. The target areas are New England, New York, 48 New Jersey and Pennsylvania and we're now working to build a somewhat 49 targeted audience through LinkedIn's Site Navigator tool. Regarding the email 50 campaign, one e-blast has been sent out already. The Facebook page has been 51 put on hold, until further research is done. Tim is concerned, if comments must be 52 allowed, will we be able to properly monitor and deal with them. Joe Mirra said 53 that if people have a comment to make they should do so at our monthly 54 meetings; he would like to keep it that way. Joe told the Marketing Committee 55 that they are doing a great job with this new marketing initiative. Tim has a 56 57 meeting on Tuesday with the QU students working on this area of the campaign and will report back next month. In addition, the College Outreach "channel" 58 (whose focus is on connecting businesses to College Placement offices) has sent 59 out two messages to date; the updates to the EDC webpage should be completed 60 soon; and after other Social Media channels are up and running, the Instagram 61 channel will be worked on. Although some messages are already planned, Tim 62 asked the EDC to let him know if they have any ideas to post. 63

Gary Fapianno said he's looked at the LinkedIn EDC page and was impressed. He suggested linking to the two videos since they are so well done.
> Next meeting: None scheduled.

P&Z Liaison

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73 74 Update on committee activities – Jim Wolfe thanked the Commissioners and staff who participated in the last Town Council meeting, especially since discussion on the item on Town Center parking lot improvements was involved and the meeting long.

Hank Baum informed the Commissioners not able to attend the Council meeting that funding was approved for improvements to both the Wallace Avenue parking lot and the rear Simpson Court parking lot.

75Joe Mirra feels that improving those lots will be a great addition to our Town76Center and improve the perception that people who live outside our area and

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77		state have of our Town. He complimented the Downtown Group and WCI	for the
78		great presentation. Kathleen Lilley said it was a team effort.	
79		Tim Ryan agreed that perception of our Town is important. He related	a story
80		about a West Coast investor who came to Wallingford because his child wa	as
81		attending Choate. The investor liked the Town so much that he has now	
82		purchased a building at 135 North Plains Industrial Road.	
83		Next meeting: No meeting set.	
84		Retention/Incentives	
85		Report on committee activities – Gary Fappiano said the Committee me	t at the
86		end of January. At the meeting, Tim reported on some "uptown" projects th	at are
87		still in the works and on some State business relief programs that the Com	mittee
88		found enlightening. Right now work on the exit interviews is curtailed but t	he
89		Committee will get back to those at a later date.	
90		Next meeting: February 25 at 9 a.m.	
91			
92	* F	Rosemarie Preneta entered the meeting via telephone at approximately 6:50 p.m.	
93			
94	5.	Chair's remarks – Joe Mirra reported there will be a limited reopening of HUBCAP. The	
95		exploratory pipeline will be the first pipeline to be offered sometime in March. This pipelin	ie is
96		important for the community and especially for any graduating high school students who	are
97		thinking about future employment. There will be 4-5 occupations represented. Also, Joe	hopes
98		to revive the Small Business Council. HUBCAP is looking for donations to run some new	spaper
99		ads to try to reach business owners who have gone out of business. If you are able to he	lp,
100		please contact Joe.	
101			
102	6.	Staff report/regional matters - January report - Tim reviewed this staff report (copy at	tached)
103		and the following items were noted:	
104		IWWC and PZC approved the application for the Proton Beam Therapy Center pla	anned
105		for the 12-acre site on Northrop Road. This \$72 million project is the largest project	t in the
106		works right now.	
107		Talks about the expanded uses in the I-5 zone are on hold until March/April	
108		The Amazon application for a facility at 5 Research Park is still being considered I	out not
109		yet rescheduled with IWWC	
110		Corporation Counsel, the Mayor, EDC and Engineering are aggressively pursuing	ways
111		to reduce excessive train noise at railroad crossings. The Town is working to get	the

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112	Quinnipiac Street and Hall Avenue crossings identified as one crossing which will reduce
113	the train horns sounded by 5 for each passing train. Also, the railroad is looking at
114	utilizing "way sounding" horns (currently used at the crossing near CVS). This type of
115	horn is quieter (due to sound being directed downward) and is automatically tripped as
116	the train nears the crossing.
117	Regarding the Update on Town Center,
118	 WCI reported that a small grocery store is scheduled to open in the building at the
119	corner of North Orchard and Center Streets (former home to Design House Too).
120	 Jake's closed and the business has been bought by a Cheshire businessman who
121	plans to open a chop house with an Italian flair.
122	 WCI is hosting some free Social Media classes for Town Center businesses. WCI
123	felt that the best way to help businesses is to enable them to do business in this
124	new environment. Tim gave Kathy credit for helping businesses to grow.
125	 WCI also has 3 Valentine's Day promotions going on to help drive business to our
126	Town Center.
127 128	7. <u>Other community business</u> – Jim Wolfe said the EDC has changed drastically over the last 30
129	years. We are now more involved with all aspects of the community. He'd like the EDC to
130	consider changing its name to the Economic and Community Development Commission. He
131	feels we go way beyond doing, for example, tax incentives and that this new name would be
132	more appropriate to what the Commission does.
133	Tim Ryan added that the Town is now actively interviewing candidates for the EDC/Program
134	Planning secretary position.
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136	There being no further business, Patricia Cymbala made a motion to adjourn the meeting at
137	7:10 p.m.; Rob Fritz seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.
138 139 140 141 142 143 143	Sincerely, Amm M. Wolff, Secretary
146	EDCRVMMin020121DrNotApp

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Staff Report

January 2021 Activities Presented at February 2021 EDC meeting

Local Initiatives

- Funding for the Town Center parking lot improvement project that involves new paving and lighting
 improvements in the lots behind Simpson Court and two parking lots on Wallace Avenue was approved
 by the Town Council at their meeting on 1/26. This project generated extensive discussion due mainly to
 the history of the Simpson Court lot. Improvements are scheduled for late spring
- IWWC and PZC approved the application for the Proton Beam Therapy Center being planned for the undeveloped 12-acre site on Northrop Road. Pending final Certificate of Need approvals from the State, site preparation should begin on this \$72MM project in early summer of this year
- At their 1/11/21 meeting, the PZC voted (per the request of the Mayor, Public Utilities Director, Law Department and EDC) to close the public hearing on the regulation change discussions pertaining to expanded uses in the I-5 Zone. The respective parties making the request will meet to articulate relevant language and will provide a work product by 3/31/21
- As of this writing, Montante Construction, on behalf of Amazon, is not on the agenda for plan review at IWWC's 2/3 meeting. Amazon is seeking approvals to build a 219,000 sf warehouse on the former BMS site at 5 Research Parkway. They last presented to IWWC at the November 2020 meeting

Creating Opportunities

- CT*rail* representatives are actively conducting decibel level tests on the trains that travel the Hartford Line corridor in response to our complaint regarding excessive noise. Tests are currently being conducted and results are expected in early February. Corporation Council has been aggressively pursuing this initiative
- Discussions continue on the initiative to allow the continuance of outdoor dining in a post-COVID environment. An ad-hoc group, led by Councilor Shortell, is working with planning officials to determine what regulations may need to be amendment to support this business and customer friendly goal.
- The potential future uses of our historic railroad station have been the subject of much discussion. Per the Commission's direction, staff continues to foster the requisite discussions to pursue the vision of converting the railroad station into a more robust center for economic activity.

Marketing

- Our digital marketing initiative has been launched! We are now live on LinkedIn and Facebook. Instagram
 with follow soon. Our email marketing efforts have begun and our new website landing page should be
 ready the first week in February. It's been a journey! Our infrastructure is now ready to be utilized as we
 see fit
- The Committee approved financial support for the HUBCAP's Pipeline Program. The Pipeline Program
 prepares job seekers in specific fields for employment opportunities through skills training and direct
 contact with potential employers

Trade Shows

None scheduled

Update on Town Center

No report

Miscellaneous

Interviews for the Program Planning Secretary's position are now taking place

In the News

- Mayor Dickinson seeks school board's input on historic train station...RJ, 1/7...The Mayor has requested that school officials provide pros and cons for moving Wallingford Adult Education out of the historic train station
- Wetlands panel OK's 7-Eleven application...RJ, 1/8...IWWC approved an application by 7-Eleven for development on the lot south of Sonic Drive-In at 1033 N. Colony Road

- CT business starts set record pace in late 2020...HBJ, 1/8...According to the Secretary of State's Office CTData, 3,200 new business starts were recorded in November 2020.
- CT companies see sensors as game-changing technology...HBJ, 1/11...Wallingford-based Amphenol Corp. announced plans to acquire sensor-technology company MTS Systems Corp for \$1.7 billion. Amphenol has seen more and more of their interconnect products being married together with some type of sensor so, even with the large price tag, this strategy makes sense.
- Proposed zoning changes withdrawn...RJ, 1/13...At the request of the Mayor, a proposal to allow more kinds of businesses and industries in the Watershed Protection District was withdrawn.
- Barstool Fund helps bail out 2 restaurants...RJ, 1/13...Laskara Restaurant and Gaetano's Tavern on Main have benefited from donations from the Barstool Fund, a gofundme-type web page that has raised \$22.4 million to support 110 businesses of all kinds.
- Simpson Court in Downtown Wallingford: Council set to continue parking lot debate...RJ, 1/24...The Town Council is scheduled to revisit the proposal to improve a private parking lot at its January 26 meeting
- Hawaiian cuisine coming to town...RJ, 1/25...Pokémoto Hawaiian Poke' plans to add a 3rd CT location by opening a restaurant in the Lowe's Plaza, in the former Smashburger site
- Passion for crystals prompts woman to start online business...RJ, 1/25...Alyssa Martin, with her passion for crystals and crystal healing, started a new online business called Bite The Bullet Gems, which uses empty shell casings to make necklaces with crystals
- Meriden nutrition business expands into Wallingford...RJ, 1/26...Wallingford Nutrition Spot opened on January 18 at 314 Main Street, Yalesville
- Parking in Downtown Wallingford: Lots to be renovated, expanded...After two 5-hour meetings this month, the Town Council approved funding for 3 parking lot improvement projects and renewed leases that expand public parking in a portion of Simpson Court's rear lot
- Speak, Italian: Michael's Trattoria...CT Magazine, Jan. 2021...An interview with Michael Tiscia about his restaurant

New & Expanding Businesses

- New (September and October 2020)
 - o Taco Pacifico...97 Chapel Street, Yalesville
 - o Century Design ... 95 N. Cherry Street
 - o New England Hops Craft Beer Bar & Grill...600 N. Colony Road
 - o MRC Global...15 Sterling Drive
- Expanded
 - o Radiology Associates...101 N. Plains Industrial Road
- Relocated
 - o CT Beverage Mart...170 N. Colony Road
 - o The Nail Café...2 Chapel Street, #5, Yalesville

Results of EDC Marketing Activities

Advertising	0
Brokers/Site Consultants	2
Direct Contact	5
State/CERC/Chamber/REX	2
Trade Shows	0
Business Assistance	<u>0</u>
Total	9

Respectfully,

Tim Ryan

Connecticut	
of Wallingford,	
D Town of	

01/29/2021 14:35 kcharest

Town of Wallingford EXPENDITURES THROUGH 01/29/21

P 1 glytdbud

FOR 2021 07

	ORIGINAL APPROP	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	MTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
1105 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIO							
	65,722	65,722	36,311.90	5,043.32	00.	29,410.10	55.3% 0.1%
10011050 55405 PROMOTIONAL EXPENSE		29,050	142.40	3,749.00	5.652.00	15,150.00	47.8%
		2,000	742.35	420.61	400.94	856.71	57.2%
10011050 57000 00956 BILLBOARD UPGR 10011050 58810 DUES AND FEES	3.400	3.400	1.020.21	20.21	00.	2,379.79	30.0%
AL ECONO		106,672	46,464.86	9,233.14	6,052.94	54,154.20	49.2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	106,672	106,672	46,464.86	9,233.14	6,052.94	54,154.20	
GRAND TOTAL	106,672	106,672	46,464.86	9,233.14	6,052.94	54,154.20	49.2%
	** END OF REP	ORT - Genera	REPORT - Generated by Kathleen Charest **	n Charest **			

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Town of Wallingford

Economic Development Commission

February 18, 2021

William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor Town of Wallingford 45 South Main Street Wallingford, Connecticut 06492

RE: Budget Request for 2021-22

Dear Mayor Dickinson:

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) is submitting a request with the Operating & Maintenance request of \$35,950 in line with your directive for level funding. We are also submitting a Capital Expenditure Request for \$5,000 for upgrades to EDC billboards; the previous Capital Expenditure Request for the current fiscal year went unused.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Minan

Joseph E. Mirra, Chairman

Imw

Attachment

c: EDC & Staff

EDCCovLtrMayor202122Bud

Wallingford, Connecticut

		N OF WALLING GENER EPARTMENT E YEAR ENDING	RAL FUND	TIMATE		Tw	K
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		ECONOMIC DEVI	ELOPMENT CO	OMMISSION		11	05
Function			partment			Departn	
	FY ENDED	FY 20/21	2020-21	2020-21	FISCAL	YEAR 2021-22	
STAFFING	6/30/2020	Thru 12/31/2020	APPROP.	APPROP. ADJ.	DEPT.		FINAL
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	Original	Thru 12/31/20	REQUEST	MAYOR	ADOPTED
ELECTED & APPOINTED MANAGEMENT							
MGT-SUPERVISORY BARGA	INING						
HOURLY	INING						
HOURLY-BARGAINING							
PART-TIME	1	1	2	2	2		
SEASONAL & OTHER		3 4 .	4	2	2		
TOTAL STAFFING	1	1	2	2	2	0	0
A committee appoint development of the o to attract and retain	community. The con	ich works with t nmission assist	he Program I s in the form	ulation of econo	o promote the	e economic d programs	
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Staff Report

February 2021 Activities Presented at March 2021 EDC meeting

Local Initiatives

- The Engineering and Purchasing Departments are preparing RFP's for the Simpson Court and Wallace Avenue parking lot projects that were previously approved by the Town Council with endorsement from the Mayor. Improvements are scheduled to be completed by late spring or early summer
- The Proton Beam Therapy Center project is progressing on schedule with their development team scheduled to meet with building, fire, and utilities officials the first week of March.
- No progress in discussions regarding expanded uses in the I-5 Zone. Per a letter sent to the PZC from the Mayor, direction is anticipated by 3/31/21.
- As of this writing, Montante Construction, on behalf of Amazon, is not on the agenda for plan review at IWWC's 3/3 meeting. The applicant is responding to comments presented in the peer review process that was requested by the IWWC. Amazon is seeking approvals to build a 219,000 sf warehouse on the former BMS site at 5 Research Parkway. They last presented to IWWC at their November 2020 meeting.

Creating Opportunities

- CT DEEP has launched the *Client Concierge Service*, a central point of contact that guides applicants through the environmental permitting and review process. Staff reached out to DECD and DEEP officials to extend our appreciation for this effort.
- CT*rail* representatives are actively conducting decibel level tests on the trains that travel the Hartford Line corridor in response to our complaint regarding excessive noise. Tests are currently being conducted and results are being reviewed. Corporation Council has been aggressively pursuing this initiative.
- The potential future uses of our historic railroad station have been the subject of much discussion. Per the commission's direction, staff continues to foster the requisite discussions to pursue the vision of converting the railroad station into a more robust center for economic activity.

Marketing

- A 2020-2021 marketing budget of \$29,050 was approved by the Committee for submission to the Commission for approval. This amount represents the same amount that was budgeted for the current fiscal year. We expect to be returning unspent marketing funds from this year's budget as several promotional programs were not executed due to the business environment brought on by the pandemic.
- Our LinkedIn digital channel and email marketing have been active with a variety of messages. We will
 now direct more focus to audience development efforts and the launch of our Instagram channel. The
 new landing page on our web site was well received with minor changes recommended. The College
 Outreach initiative, aimed at connecting our employers with college placement offices for workforce
 development purposes, has not yielded the expected results.

Trade Shows

None scheduled

Update on Town Center

- Wells Fargo Bank has announced they'll be closing their 86 North Main St branch in mid-May. We anticipate that the building will be sold but are awaiting final confirmation from bank officials.
- Corner Market, at 156B Center Street, is a new market/grocery store planning to open in downtown Wallingford in early to mid-March.
- The old Jake's, 179 Center St, will be J. Carver's, a new steak and chops eatery planning to open in early to mid-March.
- The 1st Annual Winter Wallingford Restaurant Week is scheduled for March 4-14 and will involve restaurants from throughout Wallingford. Details can be found at WCI's web site.

Miscellaneous

- Regional economic development groups have been meeting virtually with recent subjects addressing the rollout of 5G Technologies and its anticipated economic development benefits and the state of the commercial real estate market.
- The Mayor addressed an audience of 170 people in the Quinnipiac Chamber's State of the Town virtual meeting that was held jointly with North Haven.
- A new round of PPP loans directly targeting small businesses has been released from the White House. There's a two-week window for applications. This program aims to fill voids left in the small business sector and expand eligibility that previous PPP programs did not allow.
- The Program Planning Secretary's position has been filled. Please join me in welcoming Catherine Donegan to our EDC team.

In the News

- Paint & home on Route 5 expanding...R-J, 1/30...South Broad Paint & Home Center, 1267 So. Broad St., is expanding into a vacant storefront next door.
- Parking in Downtown Wallingford: Another Simpson Court referendum?...R-J, 2/3...Another referendum is in the works to challenge a Town Council decision affecting public parking behind Simpson Court.
- Wallingford Grand List: More tax revenue possible after reappraisals... R-J, 2/05... The town's grand list
 has increased by 4.71 % in 2020. The resulting increase is due to the revaluation.
- Jake's is out, but J. Carvers is in...R-J, 2/06...Jake's, 179 Center St. closed and will be replaced by J. Carvers, a steak and chops restaurant.
- ALONG THE LINE: Warehouses plan covers Meriden and Wallingford...R-J, 2/9...Local businessman plans to develop vacant land into industrial parks with offices and warehouse-distribution operations along both sides of Northrop Road.
- Local orchard partners with Stormalong Cider...Apples from Blue Hills Orchard are being made into cider due to a new partnership with Stormalong, a craft cidery based in MA.
- WALLINGFORD WHEELS: Electric bikes lure entrepreneur out of retirement and into new venture...R-J, 2/15...Joseph Derhovanesian, of Bad Boyz Electro Cycles on Meadow St., is custom-making electric bikes that can travel 35-40 miles on a single charge.
- PUBLIC PARKING IN DOWNTOWN WALLINGFORD: Organizer: Pandemic Is 'Achilles' heel' for referendum...R-J, 2/18...Due to the COVID pandemic, a town resident is having trouble coming up with enough petition signatures for a referendum challenging a Town Council decision on public parking behind Simpson Ct.
- STATE OF TOWN: Economic outlook is addressed...R-J, 2/19...At the virtual Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce annual State of the Town event, town leaders of Wallingford and North Haven expressed a positive outlook for the economic future of their respective communities.

New & Expanding Businesses (Sept. through December 2020)

New

- Azteca Bakery...23 S. Colony St., C
- Century Design...95 N. Cherry St.
- East Coast Wine & Spirits...994 N. Colony Rd., A
- H. D. Segur Insurance...10 Research Pkwy.
- H & H Training and Nutrition...720 N. Main St. Ext. D
- J Class Services...60 N. Colony St.
- Lucero Design LLC...182 Quinnipiac St.
- MRC Global...15 Sterling Dr.
- New England Hops Craft Beer Bar & Grill...600 N. Colony Rd., #4
- Salon Le Rae...18 S. Orchard St., C
- The Shop Wallingford...96 Quinnipiac St.
- Taco Pacifico...97 Chapel St.

Expanded

- Next Level Installations...60 Capital Dr.
- Radiology Associates...101 N. Plains Industrial Rd.
- Redscroll Records...69 S. Turnpike Rd., #3

Relocated

- CT Beverage Mart...1070 N. Colony Rd.
- The Nail Café ... 2 Chapel St., #5

• Ranciato & Ranciato Licensed Public Adjusters Group...300 Church St., #103 Results of EDC Marketing Activities

Advertising	0
Brokers/Site Consultants	
Direct Contact	3
State/CERC/Chamber/REX Trade Shows	
Total	4

Respectfully, Agon . Tim Ryan