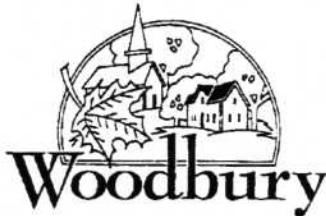


TOWN OF WOODBURY

Office of the First Selectman

281 Main Street South

Woodbury, Connecticut 06798



First land deed from the Indians
April 12th 1659

TELEPHONE: (203) 263-2141

FAX: (203) 263-4755

“Ordinance to establish a Woodbury Arts and Culture Commission”
“Ordinance to establish a Community and Economic Development Commission”

MINUTES

FROM HEARINGS FOR PROPOSED ORDINANCES – October 2, 2014
4:30 p.m. Shove Conference Room, Recessed to 7:00 p.m. Fire Headquarters

PRESENT: First Selectman Butterly, Selectman Martin Overton, Selectman Barbara Perkinson, Town Attorney Kaelin, approximately fifty residents, reporters

First Selectman Butterly opened the hearing, at 4:30 p.m., by thanking the many in attendance and by reading aloud the posted legal notice and the proposed ordinance for the Woodbury Arts and Culture Commission. Comments for proposed ordinance entitled “Ordinance to establish a Woodbury Arts and Culture Commission” were heard first. Selectman Overton thanked the Board of Selectmen for appointing the ad-hoc committee back in February to look into the presence of arts and culture in Woodbury in order to make it a permanent arts and culture commission. He highlighted that more arts and cultural activities have happened since the formation of the ad-hoc committee, such as: First Thursday, writing workshops at the library and an art exhibit. He, also, thanked Bill Geddes for bringing back the summer concert series, and introduced Vinton McCabe, local writer, to give support for passage of the proposed ordinance (his comments attached).

Ms. Patricia Jones, 145 Cat Swamp Rd.: Ms. Jones expressed support but asked why it can't be a local club.

First Selectman Butterly: Responded there is a community theater group that applies for grants.

Allison Payne, 325 Main Street South: Ms. Payne stated that she moved to Woodbury from Newtown four weeks ago, expressed interest in being part of the commission, and gave support based on her opinion that it would enrich the community.

Mr. Sean Murphy, 104 Sherman Hill Rd.: Mr. Murphy objected to a seven-member commission, suggested eight to have unity, questioned the low number of committee meetings, gave his opinion for having an activities coordinator that would grow government, should have one professional (one department) such as when Parks & Recreation did Beatlemania, inquired who has been coordinating ideas now and would the ordinance be doubling the work, need to put in spending, need to add wording that the commission would have no authority to spend money, inquired what other and how many groups need to have a seat at the table.

Mrs. Lesley Lebl, 205 Saw Pit Hill Rd.: Mrs. Lebl stated that she is a writer, worked on an opera company, inquired why this could not be done privately, language should include no cost to the town budget, and supported the activities.

Mr. Art McNally, 56 Orchard Avenue: Mr. McNally suggested that the townspeople should vote on members and didn't see the rush to have this done.

Ms. Judith Kelz, 19 Mountain Rd.: Ms. Kelz stated she supported the arts and asked that the language include a "historical", cultural aspect of the town.

Mrs. Diana Chamberlain, 547 Flanders Road: Mrs. Chamberlain spoke of artist Natalie Van Vleck's art exhibit in Town Hall in May.

Mr. Tom Arras, 76 Main Street South: Mr. Arras expressed disbelief that there would be no cost to the taxpayers, and suggested language be added "no cost to taxpayers" and members voted in by townspeople.

Mr. David Schultz, 15 Laurel Woods Rd.: Mr. Schultz expressed enthusiasm for the arts in Connecticut and Woodbury, questioned "no cost to the taxpayers" since, in his opinion, for every dollar that goes to Hartford, five cents comes back to Woodbury, and questioned if a clerk would be taking minutes resulting in an additional expense to the town.

Ms. Barbara Packer, 55 Grassy Hill Road: Ms. Packer expressed support and thought the cost would be the same if gone through other departments or privately.

Mr. Jack Kearney, 28 Stagecoach Road: Mr. Kearney asked who would select the commissioners and stated that the community theater did not cost the town anything.

First Selectman Butterly interjected that a clerk to take minutes would be approximately seventeen dollars an hour and the town presently has ad-hoc committees that pay clerks.

Mr. Lou DeLuca, 479 Main Street North: Mr. DeLuca asked that the language include compliance with town charter.

Mr. Jack Well, 174 Flanders Road: Mr. Well asked why it would get political.

Mr. Steve Tranguch, 49 Hessekey Rd.: Mr. Tranguch agreed with comments given, has supported the arts in communities around Woodbury, asked if other communities have arts commissions, disagreed about "no cost to the taxpayer", and stated the only way we get more is to tax more.

Ms. Julie Clark, 124 South Pomperaug: Ms. Clark gave support in expressing its importance to remember what the arts bring to the town.

First Selectman Butterly stated that both proposed ordinances are met to bring people into the town.

Mr. John Chamberlain, 547 Flanders Road: Mr. Chamberlain recommended removing the alternates, add language for coordinating activities, suggested appointing members, suggested the commission develop a plan to bring visitors into town, and expressed his opinion that non-taxpayer members should volunteer their help.

Mr. Lee Warner, 88 Sherman Hill Road: Mr. Warner inquired what the advantages were to having a commission versus an ad-hoc committee.

First Selectman Butterly responded that an ad-hoc committee exists at the whim of the First Selectman, with no continuity for the committee; a full commission would have certain powers, utilize grants, and look for revenue from other sources.

Mr. Robert Kolesnik, 244 Main Street South: Mr. Kolesnik stated his understanding that the commission would be apolitical, have no regulatory authority, and enrich the community.

Mrs. Claudette Volage, 26 Barbara Lane: Mrs. Volage asked how a resident would access the commission.

First Selectman Butterly responded by attending meetings and minority representation would occur if on the ballot or appointed.

Mr. Sean Murphy: Mr. Murphy supported appointed members not elected, and inquired who paid for heat, electricity, and the custodian when Community Theater took place in May. First Selectman Butterly responded that they paid rent for use of the hall. Mr. Murphy suggested that all funds used be raised privately, questioned their guidelines, supposed they could be making money, and asked who has been promoting these activities.

Ms. Allison Payne: Ms. Payne pointed out that Sandy Hook's SHOP helped small businesses to thrive and supported the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Art McNally: Mr. McNally asked if this would conform to the town charter.

Ms. Patricia Jones: Ms. Jones asked how other clubs raise money, do we need a commission and whether Republican or Democrat should not matter. First Selectman Butterly responded clubs were privately operated.

Selectman Perkinson, 212 Good Hill Road: Selectman Perkinson stated that the language does not include grant writing and asked that language for a licensed grant writer be included.

Mr. Murphy spoke of grants for the Senior Center. Selectman Overton responded most grants come from banks who have conditions like advertising, town applied grants have come to the First Selectman and then to the Board of Selectmen by agenda.

Mrs. Lebl: Mrs. Lebl questioned expectations by grants whether town or private.

At 6:30 p.m. First Selectman Butterly read aloud the proposed ordinance for "Ordinance to establish a Community and Economic Development Commission" and stated this ordinance would allow the ad-hoc committee to be replaced by a commission. Mr. Alex DeSorbo, Chairman, presented by noting that the proposed commission would provide a strong approach in bringing new businesses to Woodbury and address economic development in Woodbury (presentation attached).

Mr. Kurt Mazurosky, 1153 Main Street South: Mr. Mazurosky, Vice President of the Woodbury Business Association, and representing WBA, read aloud their endorsement for the formation of the Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission. He asked that the Selectmen consider appointing a WBA representative to the commission.

Ms. Julie Clark: Ms. Clark highlighted her long-time business ties to Woodbury, stated her opinion that Woodbury is not the same town, local businesses are struggling, and supported the proposed commission.

Mr. Sean Murphy: Mr. Murphy thanked the committee, expressed concern about the town's reputation and inability to support the proposed commission because of the names involved, and the need to work together.

Mr. Robert Kolesnik: Mr. Kolesnik agreed with Mr. Murphy that we need to enhance the town's reputation, pointed out that the commission would not regulate, but help guide new businesses, and encourage other

commissions i.e. historic commission and zoning commission, to identify problems and interface, which is not happening now.

Mr. Steve Tranguch, 49 Hesseky Meadow Rd.: Mr. Tranguch expressed concern about raising taxes, the expansion of government, and wished the commission luck in promoting Woodbury as a destination for commerce.

Ms. Judith Kelz: Ms. Kelz spoke as Director of the Glebe House, stated that in her opinion they missed the boat in that residents have not supported the Glebe House, a non-profit, which had over 4000 visitors this year.

Mrs. Lesley Lebl: Mrs. Lebl, who thought the Middle Quarter area looked grimmer, questioned how this ordinance would help businesses who may need public services. First Selectman Butterly stated an example of public services, such as sewer, are not there. Mr. DeSorbo interjected that there is no mechanism in town now to identify what may be necessary.

Mr. Ray Manzi, 25 Hard Hill Road: Mr. Manzi spoke of his long-time involvement on economic development ad-hoc committees, wanted the commission to have autonomy and consistency no matter who is in office.

Ms. Barbara Cassidy, 132 Main Street South: Ms. Cassidy spoke of wanting to keep the historic town pretty and questioned why more businesses, and how to bring in more young families that have different priorities compared to past generations.

Selectman Perkinson: Selectman Perkinson stated concern about Section D empowerment to make land use applications because it had been stated the proposed commission would not be regulatory. Mr. Kolesnik stated that anyone can do that. Selectman Perkinson suggested that "empowered" be replaced by "advocated" so that the proposed commission not be on same par as the zoning commission. Mr. Tranguch agreed.

Mr. Art McNally: Mr. McNally stated that there were problems with Section E and F, thought the commission could do more than advise, thought "pursuing" was very general, thought "acquisition" was far reaching, and suggested they be checked out along with clarification for what Public Act 90-270 states.

6:47 P.M. ADJOURNED BY FIRST SELECTMAN BUTTERLY TO CONTINUE AT FIRE HEADQUARTERS AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: First Selectman Butterly, Selectman Perkinson, Selectman Overton, Town Attorney Kaelin, approximately thirty-five residents, one reporter

First Selectman Butterly thanked those present for attending and briefly spoke of the hearing process and the proposed ordinances. He then introduced Selectman Overton who summarized the ad-hoc committee work for the Woodbury Arts and Culture Commission proposed ordinance. Selectman Overton thanked all who contributed and read aloud Mr. Vinton McCabe's comments which gave support to the passage of the proposed ordinance for a Woodbury Arts and Culture Commission.

Ms. Colleen Mongillo, 53 Woodbury Hill: Ms. Mongillo inquired why this proposed commission would be an arm of town government and not private. First Selectman Butterly responded that in government it would have more strength, such as applying for grants. Selectman Overton interjected that the commission could facilitate such activities as a town-wide arts festival.

Ms. Adele Taylor, 471 Washington Road: Ms. Taylor asked how many members, how would they be selected, and wanted to know how the other arts organizations, who are already doing a fine job, feel about it? First Selectman Butterly read aloud the proposed ordinance and stated that he did not know how the other arts organizations felt.

Mr. Art McNally: Mrs. McNally suggested the addition of the following language: add to bottom “no cost to the town.” First Selectman Butterly asked him to clarify his definition of cost to the town, i.e. if the town advertised in VOICES for a cost of \$100.00 but they brought in \$150.00, was there any money spent? Mr. McNally: yes.

Mr. Lou DeLuca: Mr. DeLuca pointed out that any commission would become an entity of town government and complies with town charter, require that minutes be taken, and pay a clerk.

Mr. Richard Reimold, 92 Grassy Hill Rd.: Mr. Reimold, Vice President of Community Theater, asked if there would have to be an equal number from each political party, believed there could be political interference, and hoped members would be dedicated to arts and culture.

Mr. Sean Murphy: Mr. Murphy questioned minority representation, suggested seven full members and inquired if there had been legal opinions. Town Attorney Kaelin responded town charter requires minority representation, seven or five members, and yes, he had given the proposed ordinance legal review. Mr. Murphy requested the legal review be released. First Selectman Butterly stated that he would take it under advisement. Mr. Murphy asked who is doing those activities now—First Selectman Butterly asked him who did Beatlemania? Mr. Murphy replied BEDC (others shouted out same reply), and the First Selectman had a lot to do with it. Mr. Murphy went on to ask are we creating a second layer of bureaucracy, and expressed doubt about grants because the town could be forced to use grant money to do something later.

Ms. Diane Heavens, 48 Flanders Rd.: Ms. Heavens questioned how members would be selected and if they would have skills and a passion for the arts. First Selectman Butterly responded yes.

Mr. Tom Arras: Mr. Arras compared the two ordinances’ wording, found the second to be more thorough regarding powers and duties, and concluded that Art’s suggestion of costing “no money” should not go into ordinance language.

Mr. Richard Snider, 33 Gate Post Lane: Mr. Snider questioned how the town would pay for this commission—would it be from a foundation? Selectman Overton responded that the commission would rely on people who are donating now.

Ms. Maureen Denver, 127 Old Town Farm Road: Mrs. Denver spoke of the importance of a theater group, and the Community Theater has already done everything on their own through contributions from citizens. She offered to help.

First Selectman Butterly reiterated that the town is obligated to supply a clerk to take minutes.

Mr. Steve Erickson, 505 Middle Road Turnpike: Mr. Erickson inquired about where they would park. First Selectman Butterly responded if he was thinking about Old Town Hall, it would not be a concern for this commission.

Mr. Thomas Chamberlain, 547 Flanders Road: Mr. Chamberlain spoke in favor, expressed enthusiasm, as a local artist to know what other people are doing, challenged the difference of cost to the town versus spending money which he believed to not have a negative financial impact on the community.

Mrs. Sharon Sherman, South Meadows: Mrs. Sherman questioned if the proposed commission could apply for grants. Town Attorney Kaelin responded that grant applications would be run by the Board of Selectmen, as presently being done.

Mr. Sean Murphy: Mr. Murphy stated that a profit should not be made. Mr. Kolesnik responded with an example of serving as a type of coordination for specific artist's interests.

Mr. William de la Mare, 547 Flanders Road: Mr. de la Mare stated that government spending money is an investment, thought there was a cynical view of possible town corruption in town, and thought that politics should not be in the arts.

Mr. Art McNally: Mr. McNally gave his opinion that growing the government starts with just paying for a clerk to take minutes, and also, the town should let the organizations stay as is.

Mrs. Diana Chamberlain, 547 Flanders Road: Mrs. Chamberlain expressed that the arts and their volunteers provide an enormous financial value to the town and just a clerk would not be an enormous expense.

Mr. Sean Murphy: Mr. Murphy requested to know if they will monitor their spending. Town Attorney Kaelin stated that there would be public input on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda.

Ms. Sibly Morosco, 823 Main Street South: Ms. Morosco spoke of her twenty year operated ballet school, expressed excitement for the assembling of volunteers and the benefits, and asked why not?

Mr. Lou DeLuca: Mr. DeLuca asked if the proposed ordinance will be presented at the town meeting whether it has any recommendations. First Selectman Butterly and Town Attorney Kaelin responded action will be by the town.

First Selectman Butterly closed the hearing for the proposed ordinance for Arts and Culture Commission and opened the hearing for a proposed ordinance to establish a Community and Economic Development Commission in the Town of Woodbury. Mr. DeSorbo repeated his presentation.

Mr. Matt Smith, 87 Sage Road: Mr. Smith stated that he attended at the request of Ms. Diane Heavens, who had expressed to him how important this proposed ordinance was. Mr. Smith explained that he is an IT provider and consultant business owner, whose business depends upon new customers, and it is our choice to attract more businesses and industry to Woodbury.

Mrs. Jane Sandulli, 20 Old Town Farm Road: Mrs. Sandulli brought up Chapter 6 of the town charter which is looking for electors, how much power they would have, and would they be part of the budget. Mr. DeSorbo responded that if it needed resources, a plan would be made and brought to the town meeting. Mrs. Sandulli also asked if they can hire people because according to Section H it sounds like they can. First Selectman Butterly responded that only the Board of Selectmen hire people.

Mr. Robert Kolesnik: Mr. Kolesnik presented an example of the commission suggesting the installation of a sidewalk could help the Glebe House for visitors to walk to local businesses.

Mr. Sean Murphy: Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. DeSorbo, opposed the proposed ordinance, asked that comments be on the website, expressed concern that the town have a good reputation, asked for major changes to the Plan of Conservation and Development, commented that if we had significant growth there would be an increase in taxes, and asked that the proposed ordinance be tabled.

Ms. Karen Reddington-Hughes, 182 Sherman Hill Road: Ms. Reddington-Hughes spoke of her service to the Business and Economic Development Committee, expressed concern if commissioners would be qualified to implement Section 4 E. with other commissions.

Mr. John Chamberlain: Mr. Chamberlain, member of BEDC and Zoning Commission, supported the proposed ordinance which would allow the proposed commission to act as an advocate concerning zoning regulation changes, questioned Section E "in concert" (they cannot act?), "pursue" meaning, expressed concern about "property tax abatement programs" that he felt need to be clarified, Section G suggested a town publicist, Section H requested that "if granted" after "authority", liked that the committee is encouraged to participate together.

Mr. Steve Tranguch: Mr. Tranguch praised Mr. DeSorbo and asked him for a three-year estimate for funding. Mr. DeSorbo responded that he had looked at other towns and it could be \$10,000.00.

Mr. Hiram Peck, 21 Minortown Road: Mr. Peck stated his work history as a professional planner, currently working in Simsbury, stated that the proposed ordinance could be a good tool for economic development with a historic influence, stated that Simsbury has generated more revenue than spent which has stabilized the mil rate, expressed his love for the town and hope that the proposed ordinance passes.

Mr. Art McNally: Mr. McNally expressed his opinion that the proposed ordinance would increase the size of town government and taxes, stated that Section 3 should state taxpayers, found zoning regulations confusing so that they would prevent businesses from coming to town, language in Sections D, E, and F could make existing commissions subservient to the proposed commission and duplicate input, expressed concern about Section E "in concert", "overall quality of life" would give power over my personal property, requested that Public Act 90-270 be put on our website, expressed concern about the last paragraph "severability" looks like anticipation of going to courts, criticized the Selectmen's rush without public debate to take the proposed ordinance to town meeting.

Mrs. Jane Sandulli: Mrs. Sandulli questioned the public's say in the process of the nomination by the commission to fill vacancies, then to the Board of Selectmen for action. First Selectman Butterly responded the Board of Selectmen does not have to accept the name sent to them.

Mr. Steve Tranguch: Mr. Tranguch questioned why members could not be elected, and asked for clarification of the term "in concert."

Mr. Lou DeLuca: Mr. DeLuca pointed out how the nomination language differed from the town charter language "any provisions of the Charter of the Town of Woodbury notwithstanding, members **shall** be" which denotes "must be."

Mr. John Chamberlain: Mr. Chamberlain felt that the proposed commission would be apolitical and any gaps could be filled with those with certain expertise.

Selectman Overton, Minortown Road: Selectman Overton suggested that "shall" be replaced with "may."

Mr. Tom Arras: Mr. Arras commented that whether “electors of the town, however, as many as two members of the Commission may be taxpayers and not electors” in Section 3 differed from town charter language and questioned why would the town want to have taxpayers (not electors) serving on boards and commissions. First Selectman Butterly pointed out that such persons like Julie Clark could contribute a business insight. Mr. Arras responded that she could just as well attend the meetings.

Selectman Barbara Perkinson: Selectman Perkinson pointed out that Section C addresses the Julie Clark scenario, questioned Section G “carrying out its responsibilities...” and how CEDC would represent Woodbury.

First Selectman Butterly offered the following closing remarks: his purpose in proposing this commission was to get these people together in one room to address such zoning problem areas such as South Pomperaug’s 4.6 acres limiting the building’s number of square feet, thought the Selectmen had not been rushing this proposed ordinance, had not micromanaged the committee, had attorney approval on the language, and Attorney Kaelin had questions also. Also, he strongly felt that the proposed ordinance is needed because we have to do something, and asked for a chance. The hearing closed at 9:26 p.m.



Submitted by: Jan Krampitz, Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 7th day of OCT 20 14
at 10:10 o'clock A M
Suzanne Cooper
Asst. Town Clerk

The Case for an Arts and Culture Commission in Woodbury, CT

In electing to establish an Arts and Culture Commission as part of the fabric of town governance, the people of Woodbury, CT will be choosing to give the arts a permanent place at the table. They will, in essence, be stating that the citizens of Woodbury, CT consider the creative arts to be an essential element, an important aspect of the quality of life in their town, their state and their national culture.

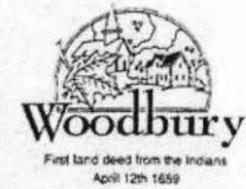
The Arts and Culture Commission will:

- **Act as an advisory council**, establishing a vision for the arts in our community in general, as well as encouraging the development of creative talent and facilitating in productions and presentations by which that talent may be shared to the community of Woodbury, CT and with visitors to our community
- **Represent the views of artists, and art and cultural groups**, as well as the audience for those individuals and groups, within the town government. Advise the Board of Selectmen on subjects related to arts and cultural programming within the town of Woodbury, CT
- **Advocate for the arts as a whole and for arts and cultural programming** within the town of Woodbury as a means of maintaining and enhancing the quality of life within our community
- **Seek out venues and topics for programming**, and bring together leaders of business, education and governance with creative artists and arts organizations for the benefit of all
- **Work with the Parks & Recreation department and all existing and newly-created arts and cultural groups and/or individual artists and performers** in establishing an annual calendar through which competition among productions and presentations is held to a minimum, and assist and facilitate the marketing and publicizing of those presentations
- **Encourage volunteerism within the community**, as it relates to myriad aspects of cultural programming: all will be welcomed to become a part of the ongoing creative efforts
- **Encourage tourism within the town of Woodbury**: as arts and cultural programming attracts a vital new audience to our community, every business stands to benefit
- **Encourage a new “branding” for the town of Woodbury**: as the audience for arts and cultural programming grows, our community’s reputation as a cultural leader within the state of Connecticut will grow with it
- **Seek to encourage the work of young artists** and to bring to our community programming of special interest to the young.
- **Seek also to encourage programming for our town’s senior citizens**, as well as programming that allows our older citizens to explore new creative outlets in their own lives

The Arts and Culture Commission will NOT:

- **Impact the budget for the town of Woodbury in any way.** The Commission, as an advisory council, will require no annual budget—all monies required for arts and cultural programming will be privately raised. All Commissioners are volunteers serving their community.
- **In any way inhibit the growth of the arts in the town of Woodbury.** The Commission will not in any way block or censure the work of any artist or arts organization that may choose to work outside the sphere of activity of the Arts and Culture Commission.

In voting for the creation of an Arts and Culture Commission, the citizens of Woodbury, CT, are recognizing the importance of creative and performing arts in their own lives and in the lives of all who are a part of our community. Further, they vote for a revitalization of the arts in our town. In the first few months, working as an ad hoc committee, the Commission has already helped to facilitate the establishment of a community theater in the town of Woodbury, as well as seen the return of First Thursday now housed in Historic Town Hall and a return of summer concerts to the Hollow. It has also helped to bring the Woodbury Writers’ Workshop to the Woodbury Library and helped begin the planning for a special arts exhibit of the work of Woodbury painter Natalie Van Vleck, set for spring of 2015. With the establishment of an Arts and Culture Commission, this and other cultural programming can become a permanent part of the lives of all the citizens of Woodbury, CT.



Step One:

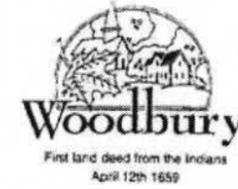
Acknowledge the problem

- Residents and business alike know there is a problem.
- Not everyone agrees on exactly what the problems are.
- Most people don't have a suggestion for a solid solution or something new.

As a result:

**There has been no approach
to addressing the problem(s) and finding solutions.**

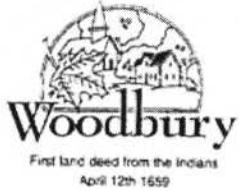
There's much more in Woodbury



Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission

October 2, 2014 Public Hearing

There's much more in Woodbury

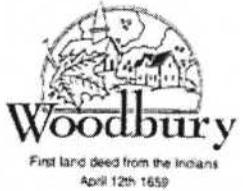


Step Two:

Focus, manage and market

- Focus on the objective to address the tax base:
 - Relieve increasing tax burden on residents, seniors
 - Develop a process to identify, approach and encourage business and community initiatives and opportunities that answer the question –
Why Should I come to Woodbury?
- Manage the process
 - Create a group – responsible to the taxpayers – to initiate, communicate and execute the development of a compelling community environment for residents, visitors and businesses.
- Market these new initiatives to prospective visitors, residents and businesses.

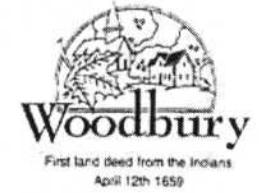
There's much more in Woodbury



Action

- Committee appointed by the BOS on to develop a recommended ordinance and presentation.
 - Charles Cosgriff, Jr
 - Alex DeSorbo, chair
 - Michelle Ecsedy
 - Robert Kolesnik
 - Hiram Peck
- 7 meetings from March 26 to May 30
- Reviewed ordinances and EDC materials from over 13 comparable towns.

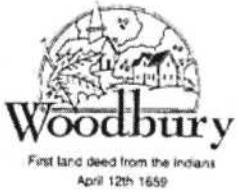
There's much more in Woodbury



Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission

- Formed under CGS Ch. 97 Sec 7-136 and the Woodbury Charter Ch. IV Sec. 609.
- Membership
 - 8 regular members
 - Chair, Vice chair and Secy elected from sitting members.
 - Nominations are made by the sitting commission to the BOS. Must be at least one more than open seats.
- Term
 - 3 years alternating appointments
 - Maximum 2 re-appointments

There's much more in Woodbury



Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission

DUTIES UNDER STATUTE

“The commission

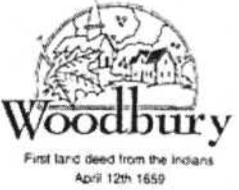
shall **conduct research** into the economic conditions and trends in its municipality,

shall **make recommendations to appropriate officials and agencies** of its municipality **regarding action to improve its economic condition and development,**

shall **seek to coordinate the activities of and cooperate with unofficial bodies** organized to promote such economic development and

may **advertise and may prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets** which in its judgment will further its official purposes. “

There's much more in Woodbury



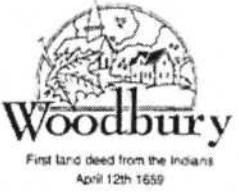
Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission

REPORTING

“The commission shall annually prepare and transmit to the legislative body of its municipality a report of its activities and of its recommendations for improving such economic conditions and development.”

In other words, this Commission, by law, reports to the community through the Town Meeting.

There's much more in Woodbury



Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission

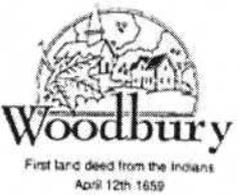
FUNDING

“Any municipality which establishes an economic development commission may annually appropriate for its purposes a sum not exceeding one-twentieth of one per cent of the last-completed grand list of taxable property. “

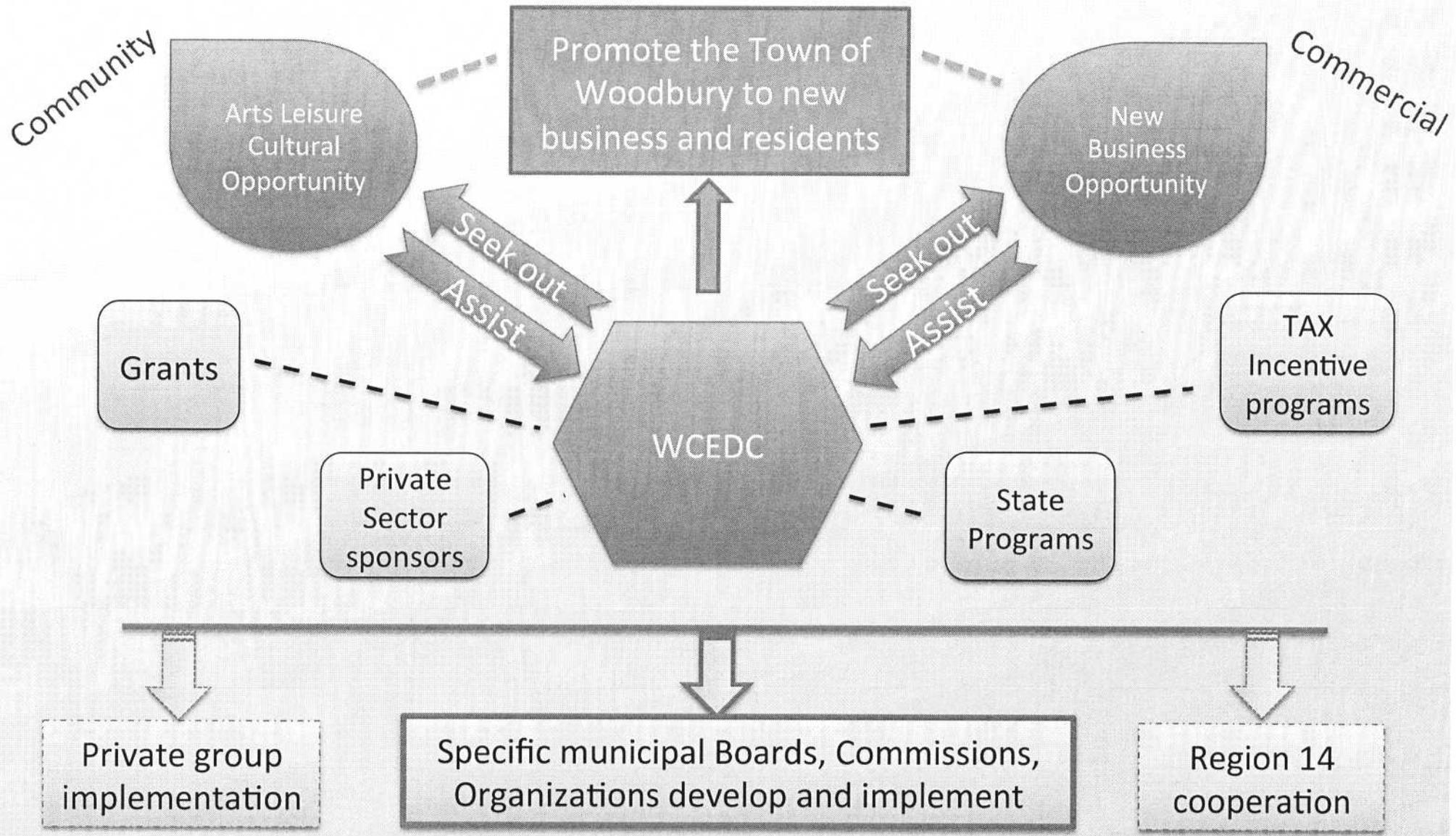
In other words, the Town may provide funds to this Commission to specifically promote and develop the economic well being of Woodbury.

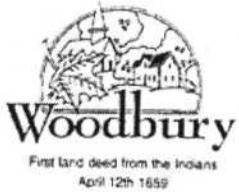
(1/20 of 1% or .0005 times \$1.2 B grand list or up to ~\$600k)

There's much more in Woodbury



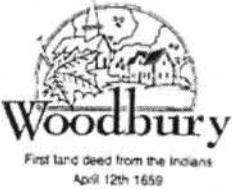
Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission





A comprehensive economic development strategy will contain:

- (1) **An analysis of economic and community development problems and opportunities**, including incorporation of any relevant material or suggestions from other government-sponsored or supported plans;
- (2) **Background and history of economic development** in the {town}, with a discussion of the economy, geography, population, labor force, resources and the environment;
- (3) **A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts for the strategy;**
- (4) **The goals and objectives for (a) taking advantage of the opportunities in the {town}, and (b) solving the economic development problems of the {town};**
- (5) **A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement the goals and objectives set forth in (4)**
- (6) **Performance measures** that will be used to evaluate whether and to what extent such goals and objectives have been met.



What will the WCEDC do?

Engage state agencies for resource

Identify promotional events and investment potential for town participation

Consider/develop tax abatement programs

Plan and conduct business "fairs"

Website and social media content development and approval

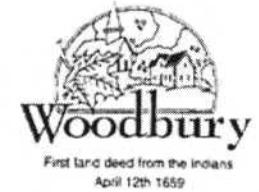
Provide input for other boards and commissions to understand economic impact of opportunities under consideration

Develop promotional materials to market the town

Identify possible attractions and investment impact to develop – ie parks, trails, museums

Create relationships with potential businesses

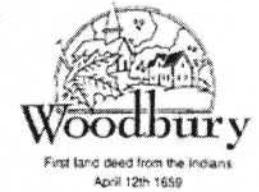
Work with R14 to identify opportunities and collaborate to attract and engage families to Woodbury



Specifics to consider after formation

- Meet with town and community groups for input:
 - Historic, library, P&R and sports, museum.
 - Seniors, school district/PTOs, churches
 - (Former) BEDC, WBA, and WADA
- Meet with state DECD for guidance re conduct of WCEDC.
- Meet with CT Tourism
- Identify any immediate grant/resource opportunities.
- Evaluate potential for tax abatement programs for:
 - (1) Seniors
 - (2) business expansion.
- To report on 'What does Woodbury have to offer?'

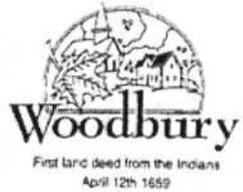
There's much more in Woodbury



What the WCEDC is not

- Will not be a regulatory body
 - It has no authority to regulate
- Will not be a land-use board
 - It has no authority over zoning, planning
- Will not raise taxes
 - It has no authority to appropriate
- Will not be a tool of the Board of Selectmen
 - It reports directly to the Town Meeting

There's much more in Woodbury



A Community and Economic Development Commission will

- Find avenues to improve the social and economic vitality of the town
- Recommend actions to make our community more competitive as a regional attraction for visitors, new residents and businesses
- Oversee new programs to address new directions
- Be responsible for the marketing of Woodbury
- **Report its actions to the community at Town Meeting**

There's much more in Woodbury



First land deed from the Indians
April 12th 1659

There's much more in Woodbury

Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission



Woodbury Business Association

October 2, 2014

To the Woodbury Board of Selectmen

Re; Statement to Public Hearing on the formation of the Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Woodbury Business Association are encouraged at the action taken to establish the Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission and, accordingly, endorses and supports the proposed ordinance.

The WBA bylaws state in part that the objective of the Association is, in representing the interests of its membership, to "...promote mutual cooperation between the Town of Woodbury and its business community". We believe this commission can provide a much needed structure and consistent mechanism to hear, discuss and act on improvements to the business climate and the vitality of our community.

In that regard, the WBA is also committed to working with the new commission and respectfully asks that the Selectmen consider appointing a WBA representative to the commission when it is initially formed.

Sincerely,

Officers:

Alex DeSorbo	Kurt Mazurosky
Deborah Tata	Ron Iannucci
Duncan Stephens	

Directors:

Julie Clark	Joyce Drakeley	Rick Richardson
Bernie McManus	Marge Owens	Diane Heavens
John Pittari	Ed Santopietro	Dorrie Sperry
Rudy Mazurosky (emeritus)		

Hi. My name is Julie Clark. I am one of the owners of Creative Arts Studio or CAST Preschool as we now call ourselves. I first moved to Woodbury in 1985 and bought a house on Easy Street. Linda Goodman and I started our business together in 1987. Woodbury, at that time, was a bustling little town. The Antique Trail ran through Woodbury and the antique business was thriving. Mitchell Elementary School was a Blue Ribbon School and there were many families with small children moving in. Sharon Carlson opened Geppetto's Toy Store the same year that we opened our facility for children. CAST is one of Woodbury's major employers and we own - we do not rent - our space. We pay taxes to the town of Woodbury.

Today, Woodbury is not the same town. The town is lined with For Sale signs and empty shops stand where busy antique stores once stood.

^{Many} Families with small children stopped moving to Woodbury with the indecision about how to distribute our elementary school population. Superintendents have come and gone. Large buildings were built in speculation and stood empty for many years. Just now there seems to be some momentum when it comes to filling those spaces.

Business owners in general have felt that the town itself is not a friendly, welcoming place to start ^{and to run a business} a venture and I must concur.

As we all know, the economy took a dive in 2008 and most businesses, I believe, including CAST have been struggling to survive ever since. My business, in particular, depends on young families. Young families move where there are jobs and where the schools have a reputation for stability and high quality. Most of our students, at CAST, now come from outside of Woodbury.

I am enthusiastic about the formation of an Economic Development Commission in Woodbury. This town needs a clear vision and plan of how best to assimilate businesses into our town, while still maintaining the beauty and historic value of those areas that we would like to preserve. Not only do we need a plan, but we need people who are willing to reach out to help business owners and entrepreneurs who have a vision and who would bring jobs and tax revenue, add value to our homes and properties and provide services to our citizens.

If we don't take this important step now, I am fearful for the future of this town and for the future of my business here. I wholeheartedly support the formation of the Woodbury Community and Economic Development Commission.