

ENFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 – 5:30 PM
ENFIELD TOWN HALL – SCITICO ROOM
820 ENFIELD STREET - ENFIELD, CT

Call to Order

Chair Turner called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Roll Call

Present were Mary Ann Turner, Marilyn Cressotti, Kelly Davis, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, John Santanella, Rich Stroiney, and Stephen Ragnuth. Also present was Director of Economic and Community Development; Aaron Marcavitch and Recording Secretary; Rebecca Jones.

Guest: Mayor Ken Nelson (arrived at 5:42)

Approval of Minutes – June 19, 2025

Motion to approve the June 19, 2025 meeting minutes made by Commissioner Stroiney ; seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall and approved by a show-of-hands vote of 5-0-0.

Report from Economic & Community Development Office

a. Ongoing meetings with the Business Community

There will be another Economic Development Breakfast on October 9, 2025 at 7:15am. Representatives from AdvanceCT and Connecticut Center for Advanced Technologies will be present. Mr. Marcavitch has contacted representatives at the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Commission and will be attending the Western Massachusetts Developers Conference on October 15, 2025.

Mayor Ken Nelson arrived at 5:42pm.

b. New Businesses and Developments

Mr. Marcavitch explained that some small business owners have experienced difficulty opening businesses in town due to building, health, and zoning processes. He is working with various offices to see if the process can be streamlined or improved in some ways through GIS and OpenGov. Mayor Nelson shared that he had heard from some that the commercial hood requirement has been too costly for some business owners and has stopped them from expanding.

The commissioners discussed the positive impact of the ARPA grant program for small businesses in Enfield. They discussed a possibility of a bus tour to highlight improvements made through ARPA. Chair Turner noted the grant program's success and recommended small changes to the application process should this occur again. Mr. Marcavitch noted that all ARPA projects must be started by the end of this calendar year and completed by the end of next calendar year.

Commissioner Cressotti left the meeting at 6:19pm.

c. Upcoming Events

The Enfield Landlord Association will meet on October 1, 2025. Mr. Marcavitch will be attending the Connecticut Economic Development Association's annual meeting on October 30, 2025.

d. America250 Program

There is a Veteran recognition ceremony coming up in November.

Old Business

The Town is exploring sites for the new commuter lot. There was discussion surrounding initiatives to encourage Enfield residents using out-of-state plates to register their vehicles in Connecticut.

New Business

a. Improving business relationships

The commissioners discussed the option of using TIF funds to help offset opening costs for businesses within the TIF district. The commissioners discussed promoting 'Small Business Saturday', which is traditionally held on the day after Black Friday.

b. Marketing of Businesses

Mr. Marcavitch proposed a Restaurant Week and/or a Pizza Week to highlight Enfield's restaurants. The commissioners discussed how to attract businesses, particularly sit-down restaurants, to Enfield. They agreed to develop a list of potential targets for the next meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Stroiney; seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall and approved by a unanimous show-of-hands vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Prepared by: Rebecca Jones