

TOWN OF GUILFORD

31 Park Street
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437

SETTLED IN 1639



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

Economic Development Commission

Stephen Kops, Chair
Eric Steinmetz, Vice Chair (resigned eff Jan 2013)
Ted Sands, Vice Chair (eff Jan 2013)
Jennifer Cowie
Colleen Stratton
Deborah Nason (resigned Jan 2013)
Anthony Fappiano (resigned Aug 2012)
Pilar Gonzales (new eff Jan 2013)
Matthew Joseff (new eff Jan 2013)

Recognizing the members are all volunteers, transitions have occurred due to business commitments and movement out of town.

Brian McGlone – Economic Development Coordinator, Town Staff Representative
Janet Testa – Guilford Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Liaison

The Economic Development Commission is charged to conduct research into the economic conditions and trends in the Town and to make recommendations to appropriate Town officials and agencies regarding action to improve the Town's economic condition and development. The Commission may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets which will further its official purposes.

Annual Report

Guilford's Economic Development Commission accomplished the following in 2012-2013:

More than 25 businesses started up or expanded during this period. Most notable was The Safety Zone, operating their warehousing operation in the former Arkwright location on Hubbard Road while planning to consolidate their corporate offices from Essex and Clinton in 2014. Many new businesses came to Guilford, including for example; Kennedy & Perkins, Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Northwest Mutual Insurance, and food service/restaurants like; Mr. J's Asian Bistro, Ithai and Hen & Heifer. Existing businesses required new locations to service their operations such as; NAPA Auto, ECHO Salon, Guilford Greenery, Skinsations and Whip It Crossfit. Interest and activity continues around Town and several projects began that will support future economic development,

including; “former Trailblazer” location at the north end of the Green and the proposed redevelopment of the former Fonicello’s Garden Center into the Patriot Medical Center. 66 High Street and “the Rockpile” remain visible within the community for development. The economy and retirements impacted a few businesses like; Pete’s Hearth and Home, SAAB Auto location and the Brandon Laughlin Art Studio.

The overall economy remains soft and is impacting more aggressive growth. However, the examples above confirm the desirability of Guilford as a place to live, work, shop and dine.

Administrative, Organizational, & Professional Development

Continued to enhance Town website with featured commercial properties inventory and additional demographic information.

Members attended economic development related seminars. Incorporated subject matter experts into EDC meetings to expand knowledge base of commission members. Industry focus included; retailing, medical and hospitality.

Events

Co-sponsored SCORE workshops.

In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, participated in numerous New Member “Ribbon Cuttings”, Business-After-Hours Networking, and Tourism initiatives including the “Cash Mob Promotion”.

Community Outreach

Expanded scope of information and ease of use of website for residents and prospective businesses.

Continued to inform public on EDC initiatives via, press releases, E-newsletter, website-Facebook and launched Guilford Events magazine.

Cooperated with the Guilford Preservation Alliance to assist with launching their Walking Tours /Tourism program.

Planning began to support Guilford’s 375th Celebration in 2014.

Regional Outreach

Guilford continued as an active member of REX including the development of the 5 year region strategic plan.

Continued dialogue with Branford and Madison EDCs, established relationships with numerous neighboring EDC’s and local and state officials.

Interaction with Town Boards, Commissions, and Departments

EDC participation on Steering Committee for 2012 Plan of Conservation & Development. EDC participation on Planning Committee of Planning and Zoning Commission. Specific projects included; Table 5 Sub Committee, the development of the Zoning Overlay District that includes Town Center South and portions of downtown, and the re-zoning of Sullivan Farm North LLC from R7 to TS-2. All of these actions are geared to stimulate economic development.

Expanded relationships with other boards, commissions and community groups.

Increased coordination with Town Hall South.