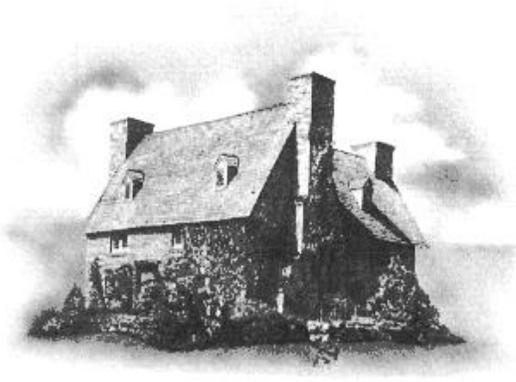


# TOWN OF GUILFORD

31 Park Street  
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437

SETTLED IN 1639



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

## **Economic Development Commission**

Stephen Kops, Chair  
Ted Sands, Vice Chair  
Jennifer Cowie  
Pilar Gonzales  
Matthew Joseff  
Mark Wasserman (eff July 2013)  
Robert Cuzzo (eff May 2014)  
Colleen Stratton (resigned Jan 2014))

Brian McGlone – Economic Development Coordinator, Town Staff Representative  
Janet Testa – Guilford (now Shoreline) 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 2013-2014:**

Several significant projects were approved or began during this period and are now becoming a reality. After nearly two years of renovation, the "former Trailblazer" location at the north end of the Green became the home of Guardian Jet LLC (Q3 2014), H.Pearce Realty and Wm. Pitt Sotheby's Realty (Q4 2014). DDR, the owners of the "rock pile" have begun construction of Guilford Commons, a shopping plaza expected to open during Q4 2015. The former Guilford Suites Motel underwent a major renovation and became a Red Roof Inn+. 66 High Street (former Clinipad site) was purchased with the intention of converting it to an upscale condominium complex. On the west end of town, a new 12 unit apartment complex was completed and is fully occupied. A commercial complex in front of the apartments has been under construction and will begin to lease during Q4 2014.

More than 25 businesses started up or expanded during this period. For example, new businesses included; Bouvier Insurance, Cartier & Bower LLC, Shift Cycling and the Arthur Murray Dance Studio, and food service/restaurants like; The Dough Market and sweetFROG. Existing businesses required new locations to service their operations such as; Hocon Gas, ECHO Salon, Guilford Greenery, and Skinsations. Interest and activity continues around Town. Construction is underway for a 5 unit condominium development at Guilford Gatehouse West. The Patriot Medical Center (former Fonicello's site) has been approved through zoning and is expected to break ground in 2015. These and several other projects will support future economic development.

The overall economy remains soft and is a major concern when developer's are considering their investment plans. 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**

Conducted a Breakfast Forum "Doing Business in Guilford" featuring local businesses from our air travel, retailing, food service, and industrial market segments.

Co-sponsored SCORE workshops with the Chamber and Guilford Savings Bank.

In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, participated in numerous New Member "Ribbon Cuttings", Business-After-Hours Networking, and Tourism initiatives. The Guilford and Branford Chambers merged, forming the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce.

### **Community Outreach**

Utilized Guilford's 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to support businesses and stimulate our local economy.

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 Guilford Events magazine.

Cooperated with the Guilford Preservation Alliance by supporting their Walking Tours and Tourism programs.

### **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 major update of 2002 Plan of Conservation & Development.

EDC participation on Planning Committee of Planning and Zoning Commission. Specific projects included; Table 5 Sub Committee, the re-zoning of Sullivan Farm North LLC from R7 to TS-2 and the Rt. 1 West Study Committee. 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.