7/21/2016 MINUTES
WESTERN CT ECONOMIC ADVISORY GROUP
Held at the WestCOG Stamford Office
888 Washington Blvd. 3rd Floor Stamford, CT 06901

MEMBERS
Hal Kurfehs  VP Coldwell Banker Commercial, Brookfield Economic Development Commission
Janice Chrzescijanek* Bethel Economic Development Commission
Jackie Lightfield  Stamford Partnership, Greater Norwalk Arts Council
Lisa Mercurio  Business Council of Fairfield County
Valeria Bisceglia  Business Advisor, CT Small Business Development Center
Joe Ercolano  Associate Director, CT Small Business Development Center
Stephen Bull*  Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce
Paul Steinmetz*  Director of Community Relations & Public Affairs, Western CT State University
Thomas Madden  Director of Economic Development, City of Stamford
Lisa Scails*  Executive Director, Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut
Jayme Stevenson  First Selectman Darien
Jim Marpe*  First Selectman Westport
Eugene Schreiner  First County Bank

ALSO ATTENDING
First Selectman Julia Pemberton of Redding*, First Selectman Peter Tesei of Greenwich*, First Selectman Nina Daniel of Weston, Roxane Fromson of CTDOT*, WestCOG Director Francis Pickering and staff members Jon Chew, Elizabeth Esposito, and Soumya Sudhakar.

*Attended by phone

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW
The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by Associate Planner Elizabeth Esposito.

Ms. Esposito reviewed the purpose of the Western CT Economic Advisory Group, which is to guide and provide feedback to WestCOG to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
There was no public participation.

PRESENTATIONS
Western CT CEDS – Introduction and Summary Background: A presentation on this topic was made by Elizabeth Esposito and Soumya Sudhakar, Summer Intern for WestCOG. Ms. Esposito explained with a PowerPoint the CEDS process and why it is important to complete. Ms. Sudhakar continued the presentation with highlights from the data analysis of regional demographic and economic conditions.
which she has been doing over the course of her internship. The presentation was made available to all attendees following the meeting at was posted on the WestCOG website.

DISCUSSION
Attendees discussed the presented data and ways to improve it. They also engaged in discussion concerning the next steps for the group.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Next Meeting: They next meeting will be held in mid to late September. The meeting will focus on industry segmentation. Advisory Group members will be polled for their availability.

OTHER BUSINESS
None

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.