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Town of Seymour
Economic Development Commission

Minutes
Wednesday – October 7, 2009 @ 7:00pm
Flaherty Room – Town Hall

Members Presents: Jon Szuch, Joe Cass, Rosalie Averill, Marietta Sabetta, Michael H. Horbal.
Members Absent: Ron Balabon.

Others Present: State Senator Rob Kane, State Representative Theresa Conroy, Alex Budzinski Housatonic Wire, Russ Smith Amity Construction, John Guedes Primrose Companies, Bill Paecht P&Z.

ITEM # 1 Call Meeting in Order.
Meeting called in order at 7:00pm by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM # 2 Pledge of Allegiance.
Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM # 3 First Selectman Comments.
First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski not present at the moment.

ITEM # 4 Public Comment.
State Representative Theresa Conroy: suggested the commissioners have the Strolling Carolers filmed and included in the update to the 2010 Town Video. She also informed the commissioners that she is working very closely with Alex Budzinski and Russ Smith to support them with the brownfields efforts.

Russ Smith: of Amity Construction, informed the commissioner that a team of architects from North Carolina is working to develop a plan for the Housatonic Wire site. Mr. Smith as well as owner Alex Budzinski are both very excited about this project and the architects' ideas. A survey of the site was just concluded and currently they are working in conjunction with VCOG Rick Dunne for brownfield funds.

State Representative Theresa Conroy: the Town has received the funds to start the Tingue Dam Fish Bypass project to break ground early spring of 2010. The project will be a great tourist attraction once its completed.

Chairman Jon Szuch asks what the time frame for the project at the Housatonic Wire is.

Russ Smith: the timeline is contingent upon financing. They are currently working on the environmental remediation and hope to have some visuals to present to the commission by the end of the year. Progress is being made every week.

State Senator Rob Kane: introduces himself to the commission. He lives and owns a business in Watertown and was on the Town Council for 6 years. He is aware of the trestle and is working with DOT to see if it can be added to the list of their regular maintenance schedule. At this time he knows the trestle is not aesthetically pleasing but is structurally sound. He is also working to create a CT Antique District Trail, similar to the Wine Trail already in existence. At this point this project is not about marketing any specific area but just to bring attention to the fact that yes CT does indeed have a lot of antique districts.

John Guedes: Primerose Companies, is a developer in Shelton. Mr. Guedes is involved in many projects in the Valley and is currently building a small strip mall on the site formerly occupied by Actors Colony. He points out that due to the current state of the economy and the crisis with the banking industry some projects might take a bit longer to develop but nonetheless he is very interested in the Town of Seymour and the Valley and is aware of the gaps and the potential for filling them.

Rosalie Averill asked Mr. Guedes what are the plans for the corner of North Street and Route 67.

John Guedes: because of the shape of the property it's challenging to come up with a design. The site will be developed in the future.

Bill Paecht: Planning and Zoning Commission, would like to facilitate the process of businesses moving to Town. Commissioner Horbal asked Mr. Paecht if P&Z ever considered creating aesthetic codes for the Town. Mr. Paecht said they have yet to consider aesthetic codes but that he will bring the idea to the rest of the board at their next meeting.

ITEM # 5 Approval of September 1, 2009 Minutes.
Motion to approve September 1, 2009 Minutes with the following correction:
Under ITEM # 5 Continue Discussion about Video Updates the motion should read as follows: 'Motion to send a letter to BOS to request waving the bidding process to re-hire VPA to perform the updates on the 2006 Town Video for the new 2010 Town Video.'

Motion: Rosalie Averill Second: Michael H. Horbal
Vote: Yes-5 No-0 Abstain-1 (T. Holly) Absent-1 (R. Balabon)

Motion to approve the Minutes for the Special Meeting held on September 9, 2009.
Motion: Rosalie Averill Second: Ted Holly
Vote: Yes-6 No-0 Abstain-0 Absent: 1 (R. Balabon)

ITEM # 6 Continue Discussion of Elderly Housing Proposal.
Invite Mr. Joe Migani to November meeting to discuss phase II of the project on 16 Bank Street.
Motion to table discussion until the November meeting.
Motion: Marietta Sabetta Second: Ted Holly
Vote: Yes-6 No-0 Abstain-0 Absent-1 (R. Balabon)

ITEM # 7 Continue Discussion of Aesthetic Codes.
Motion to table discussion of this item until the November meeting.
Motion: Michael H. Horbal Second: Marietta Sabetta
Vote: Yes-6 No-0 Abstain-0 Absent-1 (R. Balabon)

ITEM # 8 ED Director Report.
Secretary's Report:
New Haven Copper – the retaining wall plans are moving forward. Town Engineer is currently reviewing the plans.

ITEM # 9 Chairman Report.
No further comments.

ITEM # 10 Business Updates.
CVS broke ground in September and the project is moving forward.

ITEM # 11 Public Comment.
No other public comment.

ITEM # 12 Correspondence.
No correspondence.

ITEM # 13 Adjournment.
Motion to adjourn at 8:43pm.
Motion: Rosalie Averill Second: Joe Cass
Vote: Yes-6 No-0 Abstain-0 Absent-1(R. Balabon)
Motion passes.

Respectfully,

Nancy Onofrio
Recording Secretary