East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2019

Attending: R. Casner; D. Bergeron; J. Fennema; R. Parady; M. Robidoux
Absent: J. Albuquerque; J. Stone

Guests: I. Haines; E. Lyman; R. Smith; S. Wheeler

1. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Attendance – Attendance was noted.

3. Approval of Minutes

   **Regular Meeting – June 6, 2019**

   The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2019 and Mr. Casner requested one revision

   **MOTION MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2019 AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.**

4. Old Business

   A. Status Reports

      1. EDC Chairman Update

         a. Goodspeed Landing – Mr. Casner reported that the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee expects to receive the final proposal from the applicant soon. Mr. Lyman provided additional information about the process.

         b. Building Department – Fee Schedule – Mr. Casner recognized Mr. Lyman who advised that a proposal to revise some of the Town’s building fees will be presented at the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. He stated that the Selectmen will vote on the proposal at the August 21st meeting.

      2. First Selectman Update

         a. Transfer Station – Mr. Lyman reported the following:

            - The plan to reverse traffic flow at the Transfer Station has been put on hold because current conditions at the site are not conducive to the change.
            - Other, recently implemented, changes have resulted in an improvement in collections for bulky waste.
            - The contract with Willimantic Waste is up for renewal and the Selectmen are reviewing the agreement.

         Mr. Lyman advised the Commissioners that the MCRC loan funds have been completely allocated.
3. Economic Development Administrator Report

a. Tax Incentive Program – Ms. Haines reported that, in addition to the Town’s tax incentive plan, she is compiling a list of federal, state and private programs that could benefit local businesses. In response to a question from Mr. Casner, she confirmed that brownfield clean-up grant funds are available and the Commissioners discussed delays caused by poor inter-departmental communication between some state agencies.

Ms. Haines further reported that she would like to add more detail to EDC’s list of available commercial properties, such as appropriate usage. There was a brief discussion regarding the Brownell property and the need to complete a Phase I on the site. The Commissioners also discussed the Gristmill vacancy.

4. Tourism Committee – Summer Music (Steam Train & River Boat) – Mr. Robidoux advised that he will be scheduling a planning meeting for the annual Fall Weekend event. Mr. Casner stated that the CT Landmarks Association had informed him that they plan to open the Palmer-Warner House and the Amasa Day House for the Fall Weekend and would like to be added to the brochure for that event.

Mr. Robidoux reported that he will provide a supply of EDC’s tourism brochures to the newly re-opened state Welcome Center in Stonington.

5. EDC/PZC Sub-Committee – New Business District on Lower Town Street (Rt. 82) – Mr. Casner reported that the EDC/PZC sub-committee had an initial meeting to discuss the creation of a Village District zone on lower Town Street.

B. Proposed expansion of the industrial area in the IG zone – Mr. Casner reported that Shagbark’s building expansion was approved by P&Z and the IWWC and that Mr. Scully is in the process of getting his engineering documents together. He advised that they are currently researching appropriate access points to the property.

C. Chatham Health Oversite Review Committee – Mr. Fennema reported that he feels that the CHD issues have begun to turn-around and Mr. Casner stated that the feedback he is getting from contractors and business has been positive. Ms. Haines said she would follow-up with Mr. K. Staehly regarding his recent experiences with CHD.

D. Plan of Conservation & Development – Mr. Casner advised that a Public Hearing concerning the updated Plan of Conservation & Development is tentatively scheduled for August 24th.

E. Business of the Month – September 2019 Nominations and Vote – The Commissioners discussed nominating a business for August as well as September. Several businesses were discussed.

MOTION MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO NOMINATE SMITH FARM GARDEN AS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION’S AUGUST BUSINESS OF THE MONTH, BALLEK’S GARDEN CENTER AS THE SEPTEMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH, AND EDDIE’S AUTO BODY AS THE OCTOBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Haines advised that the Business of the Month sign had gotten damaged and she would like to replace it with a feather flag.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. FENNEMA, TO AUTHORIZE MS. HAINES TO SPEND UP TO $250.00 TO PURCHASE A “EDC BUSINESS OF THE MONTH” FEATHER FLAG. UNANIMOUS AYE.
F. Vision/Mission Statement – Mr. Casner requested Ms. Haines draft a brief vision/mission statement for the Economic Development Commissioners to consider at the next regular meeting.

5. New Business – Mr. Casner advised that he had received a bill for $650.00 for EDC’s membership on the CT Economic Resource organization. Ms. Haines agreed to review the membership benefits and provide feedback at the next EDC meeting.

6. Public Comment – Mr. Smith noted that the Foxtown Road bridge has re-opened. He also advised that there has been no on-site supervisor at Gillette Castle State Park for a while. There was a brief discussion about the impact on tourism from the lack of appropriate staffing at the park. Mr. Smith expressed his desire to raise the issue with our state legislators.

7. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FENNEMA, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Recorded Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler