

**Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2013**

Attending: R. Casner; D. Mathiasen; E. Odell; R. Parady; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator); F. Weissbach
Absent: J. Albuquerque
Guests: None

Mr. Odell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of February 7, 2013. MS. RUBENBAUER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons reviewed several points in his report, a copy of which is attached to and made part of these minutes.

First Selectman Update – There was no update on this agenda item.

East Haddam Business Association – There was no update on this agenda item.

Farmers' Market Sub-Committee – Mr. Odell reported that Selectman Lyman is drafting a charge for the Farmers' Market committee. In response to a question from Mr. Weissbach, Ms. Rubenbauer stated the ad hoc sub-committee meetings have been suspended. Mr. Weissbach expressed his concern that plans for next season's Farmers' Market do not lose momentum and Ms. Rubenbauer advised that Mr. Savitsky had informed her that eight vendors have already confirmed their participation in next season's market.

Swing Bridge 100th Anniversary Planning Sub-Committee - Ms. Mathiasen reported the following:

- A representative for the car show attended the last meeting for the Swing Bridge celebration and he agreed to coordinate all aspects of that part of the celebration.
- The sub-committee has agreed that street vendors and fundraising will not be allowed during the celebration.
- The Essex Steamtrain & Riverboat are working out how they will participate.
- Ms. Scherrer distributed the minutes from the last meeting to Village business owners.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Chowder Cook-Off Planning – Mr. Simmons reported that there are 8 confirmed participants and that there is a possibility for one more. Ms. Mathiasen reviewed the task checklist and the Commissioners discussed several details.

Options for Route 151/82 Directory Sign – Mr. Parady reported that the Town is in the process of selecting sign colors and they will submit their final selection to EDC.

Business Database Update – Mr. Odell reported that he and Ms. Mathiasen are reviewing and updating EDC's tourism database.

NEW BUSINESS

EDC Ordinance – Goals Rewrite Suggestions – There was no update on this agenda item.

Mail Received – Ms. Mathiasen reported that EDC had received a request to renew its sign at the Little League field. She advised the annual fee is \$100.00.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO RENEW THE TERM FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S SIGN AT THE LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD FOR ONE YEAR FOR A FEE OF \$100.00. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Public Comment/Other – In response to a question from Ms. Mathiasen, Mr. Odell advised that EDC's request to increase its budget by \$25,750.00 was heard by the Board of Finance but he could not say whether or not it will be approved.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSS, MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:47 P.M. TO REVIEW A TAX & BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO INCLUDE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSIONS. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. WEISSBACH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. CASNER, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND THE APPLICATION OF "385 TOWN STREET, LLC" TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR CONSIDERATION ACCORDING TO THE PROCESS OUTLINED IN THE TAX AND BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM ORDINANCE. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary