

August 7, 2014

To: East Haddam Economic Development Commission
From: Peter Simmons
Cc: Mark Walter
Subj: Economic Development Progress Report #30 – July 2014

1. Business Development
 - a. New England Propeller Services expansion
 - i. Tax Incentive: Draft agreement provided for NEPS
 - ii. NSTR
 - b. Eddie's Auto Body
 - i. NSTR
 - c. Dutch Oil
 - i. supporting Dutch Oil's at P&Z Public Hearing on 7/8
 - ii. providing technical assistance
 - d. Provided technical assistance to several start-up/prospective businesses
2. EDC input needed on the Town Tax Incentive Program
 - a. Drafted Ordinance Revisions
 - b. Discussed Program at June 9th and June 19th Board of Finance Meeting
 - c. First Selectman supports revising the program to make it a worthwhile tool for attracting new businesses.
 - d. Steps
 - i. EDC endorse specific changes
 - ii. Board of Selectman presentation
 - iii. Coordination with Tax Assessor and Tax Collector
 - iv. Board of Finance Approval
 - v. Town Meeting Approval of revised Ordinance
3. Norwich Road Bridge Reconstruction: One signage complaint fielded
4. Financial Assistance Programs and Grant Management
 - a. Department of Agriculture: Farmland Restoration Grant
 - i. Dept of Ag in grant application review pending
 - b. Suspended all work on developing additional grant sources to support town economic development due to fall out from Harris Project opposition.
 - i. Town needs to assess the role of economic development for the town.
 - ii. Commission meeting with Board of Selectmen is suggested
5. Harris Property Food Processing Plant – Center for Community Agriculture
 - a. Participated in Schematic Design Review Meetings with Architect
 - b. Participated in the planning and presentation of the Food Processing Plant Project at the June 25 Town Information Meeting
 - c. Concern that project opposition will jeopardize project, and the state grant – overt EDC support for project needed
 - i. Agriculture is a growing sector of the State's economy (no pun intended)
 - ii. Compatible with Town Plan of Conservation & Development
 - iii. Business Incubator
 - iv. See attached briefing
 - v. Concern – if town reneges on grant, future grant awards may be jeopardized.