

**Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2014**

Attending: R. Casner; R. Parady; D. Mathiasen; P. Rubenbauer; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator);
Absent: J. Albuquerque; D. Bergeron; G. Rucker; F. Weissbach
Guests: E. Blaschik; M. Walter; S. Wheeler

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes – The minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2014 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons presented his September 4, 2014 report, a copy of which is attached to and made part of these minutes. He discussed the final steps of the approval process for Eddie's Autobody Tax Incentive application.

There was a general discussion about the lack of responsiveness from the CT Department of Public Health to water related business projects and Mr. Parady noted the negative impact it has on business development. Mr. Walter stated he would raise the issue at the next CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) meeting. Mr. Walter reviewed some changes that are taking place at the CCM and he encouraged the Commissioners to continue to educate citizens on the challenges of driving economic development in this area.

Mr. Simmons stated that there is a need for more commercially zoned space in the Town and Mr. Casner stated that the joint EDC/P&Z sub-committee is researching that issue and will have a recommendation in the near future.

Mr. Simmons provided a status update regarding revisions to the Tax Incentive Program and responded to several questions.

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter updated the Commissioners regarding the use of the Transfer Station by commercial haulers.

In response to a question from Mr. Casner, Mr. Walter advised that the State has provided no further information about their plans for Sunrise. He agreed to coordinate a meeting with CT DEEP Dep. Commissioner Whalen, Rep. Ziobron and representatives from EDC.

EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner discussed the status of several projects.

P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee – Moodus & Rt. 82/151 – There was no update on this agenda item.

Goodspeed Landing Committee – Mr. Casner advised that he will meet with Mr. Walter on September 10th to set priorities for this committee.

Tourism Committee – Ms. Mathiasen reported that she is continuing to reach out to local tourism organizations for input on events for the 2015 summer season. She stated that fall is the cut-off to get events listed in CT brochures for next season. She encouraged the Commissioners to talk with local tourism businesses to see if they have any events planned for next spring/summer.

East Haddam Business Association – The Business Association did not meet in August and there was no other update on this agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

Permanent Location for Farmers' Market – Mr. Casner advised that a local property owner had approached him about creating a permanent location and space for the Farmers' Market. He stated that the individual suggested a permanent Market could be open 5-days a week. The Commissioners discussed the suggestion and agreed Mr. Casner should forward the information to the Farmers' Market Committee, if it has not been disbanded, or Mr. Savitsky if it has.

Blight Ordinance – Mr. Parady stated that he supports a blight ordinance for the Town. Mr. Casner asked the Commissioners to review the draft ordinance and be prepared to discuss it at the next EDC meeting.

EDC FY 2013-14 Annual Report – Ms. Mathiasen advised that EDC's year-end report is due to the Finance Director before the next EDC meeting. She stated she would forward her draft to Mr. Simmons for his input and circulate the final draft to the Commissioners via email.

Mail Received – No mail was discussed at the meeting.

Public Comment/Other/EDC Ordinance Review – In response to a question raised by Mr. Casner, Mr. Simmons advised that the property listings on the CERC website have had several hits since they were listed. He stated that he refreshed the listings in early summer.

There was no public comment at the meeting.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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