

**Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2015**

Attending: J. Albuquerque; D. Bergeron; R. Casner; R. Parady; D. Mathiasen; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator); K. Staehly; F. Weissbach

Absent: P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker

Guests: E. Blaschik; G. Fellner; M. Walter; S. Wheeler

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

Minutes – The minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Weissbach noted an amendment to his comments under the Goodspeed Landing Committee discussion.

MR. WEISSBACH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2015 MEETING AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The minutes of the January 22, 2015 Goodspeed Landing Sub-Committee meeting were reviewed, amended and approved.

Ms. Mathiasen distributed copies of the New Business Guide to East Haddam. She noted that the documents had been copied on the Town Hall copier but a printer could produce them on heavier stock for approximately \$1/apiece. The Commissioners agreed that the document did not need to be printed on heavy stock.

MR. WEISSBACH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE UP THE DISCUSSION OF THE GOODSPEED LANDING TO ACCOMMODATE MR. FELLNER'S TIME. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner introduced Mr. Fellner who reviewed a map of the Village area and next steps were discussed. Mr. Fellner agreed to collaborate with an engineer to determine the potential for the future development of the area and identify physical challenges. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Fellner and he left the meeting.

Ms. Mathiasen distributed copies of a report of EDC's 2014-15 accomplishments and goals for 2015-16 that will be delivered to the Board of Finance along with EDC's 2015-16 proposed budget request.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons presented his February 5, 2015 report, a copy of which is attached to and made part of these minutes. Mr. Casner noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission will discontinue the special exception requirement for the installation of solar panels on commercial projects.

Mr. Simmons advised that he had been in communication with CT DEEP regarding the Sunrise property and that Department is receptive to the park's use by appropriate local businesses. There was a general discussion about the application process. Mr. Walter noted that the newly created Friends of Sunrise will hold their first meeting on February 22, 2015.

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter distributed a copy of a letter that was sent to the CT Office of Policy and Management regarding repurposing the STEAP grant that had been awarded to the Town in 2013 for the Center for Community Agriculture project.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Mathiasen, Mr. Walter stated that the Council of Government's grant application was a pro forma request since information about potential funding would not be available until the State's budget is finalized. The Commissioners agreed that a letter of support would not be necessary at this time.

EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner noted that several of his update items will be covered in an Executive Session at the end of the meeting. In response to a question from Ms. Mathiasen, Mr. Casner stated he would follow-up on the date the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold its annual review of the Plan of Conservation and Development. He also noted that the annual \$150.00 fee for membership in the CT Economic Development Commission group was due.

MR. BERGERON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL \$150.00 CT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP FEE. UNANIMOUS FEE.

P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee – Moodus & Rt. 82/151 – There was no discussion of this agenda item during the public portion of the meeting.

Goodspeed Landing Committee – There was no discussion of this agenda item during the public portion of the meeting.

Tourism Committee – Ms. Mathiasen distributed a draft communication that will be sent out the East Haddam businesses and organizations interested in tourism economic development. She noted that the communication provides information on EDC's efforts to promote tourism as well as information on the planned 2015 Visit East Haddam Spring and Fall weekends. She noted it would cost approximately \$35.00 to mail the communication to the businesses.

MR. BERGERON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO ALLOCATE \$35.00 FROM EDC'S BUDGET TO PAY FOR MAILING THE TOURISM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE LETTER TO BUSINESSES. UNANIMOUS AYE.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that print and postage costs for the postcards that were mailed to East Haddam business owners inviting them to the Business Association's January 21st joint meeting with the Selectmen and other Town officials was \$118.66 and \$93.50 respectively. There was a general discussion regarding the meeting with the business owners.

MR. WEISSBACH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADAY, TO REIMBURSE THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION \$212.16 FOR THE COST TO PRINT AND MAIL THE INVITATIONS TO THE JANUARY 21ST BUSINESS OWNERS' MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Mathiasen stated that the Business Association's next planned event is the Taste of East Haddam in May. She noted that she is assisting the Association with the planning for the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Mail Received – There was no mail discussed at the meeting.

Public Comment/Other/EDC Ordinance Review/Other – There was no additional discussion during the public portion of the meeting.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. ALBUQUERQUE, TO ADJOURN TO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INVITE PETER SIMMONS AND FIRST SELECTMAN WALTER INTO THE SESSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND THE MEETING MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:07 P.M.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:25 P.M. UNANIMOUS AYE.

There were no motions made or voted on during the Executive Session.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. ALBUQUERQUE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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