

**Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2015**

Attending: J. Albuquerque; D. Bergeron; R. Casner; R. Parady; K. Staehly  
Absent: D. Mathiasen; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator); F. Weissbach  
Guests: J. Dinardi; K. Grohbrugge; I. Haines; T. Quinn; M. Walter; S. Wheeler

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He sat Mr. Bergeron for Mr. Rucker and Mr. Staehly for Ms. Rubenbauer.

**Minutes** – The minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting were reviewed. The Commissioners filled in several open items in the minutes.

MR. ALBUQUERQUE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. STAEHLY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2015 MEETING AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Status Reports:**

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Casner reviewed the March and April reports submitted by the Economic Development Coordinator. Several items in the reports were discussed by the Commissioners.

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter reported that Economic Development Coordinator Simmons had attended the April 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Selectmen's meeting to present changes to the Tax Incentive ordinance recommended by EDC. He advised that the Selectmen voted to approve the revisions and move the item to the Board of Finance and a Public Meeting for final approval. He further reported that the Town had processed its first C-Pace loan for the solar array at Shagbark.

EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner recognized Parks and Recreation Director Quinn. Director Quinn stated that the Rec Commission intern is working on a Needs Assessment project and will be mailing/emailing surveys to Town residents. Ms. Quinn stated that she is visiting all of the Town's Boards and Commissions to encourage people to complete and return the survey to her.

Mr. Casner recognized Ms. Haines, President of the East Haddam Business Association. Ms. Haines advised that she has received feedback from some businesses that they have found it difficult to secure municipal contracts. She stated that she has reviewed the purchasing ordinance and felt improvements could be made for better transparency. Mr. Walter advised that the Town tries to use local contractors as much as possible. The Commissioners, Mr. Walter and Ms. Haines discussed ways to improve communication between the Town and local business owners. Mr. Walter agreed to research the number of local and out-of-town contractors hired over the past several years. The group also discussed the need for a local weekly paper and Mr. Casner and Mr. Walter reported on their efforts to encourage several existing papers to expand to East Haddam.

Ms. Haines suggested the use of targeted marketing signs on vacant buildings.

P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee – Moodus & Rt. 82/151 – Mr. Casner reported that the sub-committee recommended their findings be submitted to an engineering firm to pull together into a formal report on the (1) the system's current capacity and its potential for expanded flows, and (2) feasibility and cost to businesses of extending the sewer line to the 4-Corners area. He advised that Fuss & O'Neil has submitted a bid of \$4,500.00 to create the report. There was a general discussion about the need for a stamped engineering report and Mr. Albuquerque expressed his concern about the expense and questioned what would be gained from the report.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FUSS & O'NEIL FOR \$4,500.00 TO EVALUATE THE TOWN'S SEWER PLANT AND EXTENDING THE SERVICE TO THE 4-CORNERS AREA. MR. ALBUQUERQUE ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

Goodspeed Landing Committee – Mr. Casner noted that at February's EDC meeting Mr. Fellner had agreed to speak with Mr. Nemergut regarding his assistance with evaluating two alternative means of egress to the Town Office Site. Mr. Casner advised that Mr. Nemergut has submitted a bid of \$5,000.00 to provide his opinion on the two potential access

locations to the site. There was a general discussion about the need for a stamped engineering report and Mr. Albuquerque expressed his concern about the expense.

MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. STAEHLY, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROGER NEMERGUT FOR \$5,000.00 TO PROVIDE HIS PROFESSIONAL OPINION ON TWO POTENTIAL ACCESS POINTS TO THE TOWN OFFICE SITE. MR. ALBUQUERQUE ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

Tourism Committee – There was no update on this agenda item.

East Haddam Business Association – Mr. Casner stated that EDC's Business Association \$50 membership fee is due.

MR. BERGERON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. ALBUQUERQUE, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S \$50 EAST HADDAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FEE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner advised that the Business Association will be printing/mailling fliers for the planned Taste of East Haddam event in May. He stated that Ms. Mathiasen recommended EDC contribute \$100.00 toward the cost of the fliers.

MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CONTRIBUTE \$100.00 TO THE EAST HADDAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION TOWARD THE EXPENSE OF PRINTING FLIERS FOR THE SPRING TASTE OF EAST HADDAM EVENT.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Staehly, Mr. Casner advised that the fliers would be mailed to Town residents. UNANIMOUS AYE.

## **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 BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. STAEHLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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