

**Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2015**

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; D. Mathiasen; P. Rubenbauer

Absent: J. Albuquerque; R. Parady; G. Rucker; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator); K. Staehly; F. Weissbach

Guests: D. McNary; S. Wheeler

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He sat Mr. Bergeron for Mr. Rucker.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the May 7, 2015 meeting.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons was not in attendance at the meeting to provide the Economic Development Coordinator's update. Mr. Casner called the Commissioners attention to Mr. Simmons' written report. He advised that efforts were made to find a new location for the luncheonette previously located in the Gristmill Plaza, however, there are no available properties that meet the Health Department's water requirements for food service enterprises and, consequently, he expects the Town would lose that business

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter was not in attendance at the meeting and there was no update on this agenda item.

EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner reported that he expects the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission to vote on the revised Chapter 8 of the Plan of Conservation and Development at their next meeting.

P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee – Moodus & Rt. 82/151 – Mr. Casner reported that that Fuss & O'Neil will present their report on the sewer plant capacity and waste water options for the 4-Corners area at the next EDC meeting.

Goodspeed Landing Committee – Mr. Casner reported that Mr. Nemergut has stated that the three potential options for access to the Town Office site property do not meet State requirements and recommended that the Town draft a plan using the best option to present to the State. He advised that the Town should request a letter from the Department of Transportation acknowledging its consent that the Town pursue the option.

Tourism Committee – Ms. Mathiasen requested authorization to spend up to \$2,000.00 to print 7000 Visitors' Brochures.

MS. RUBENBAUER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$2,000.00 TO PRINT 7,000 VISITORS' BROCHURES. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Mathiasen reported on the following:

- She met with the Business Association to review the Spring Weekend and plan for the Fall Weekend.
- Funding for the State Tourism Districts Commission was included, with a slight reduction, in CT's new budget.
- She met with the Friends of Gillette Castle to discuss the CT premier of the restored 1916 William Gillette silent Sherlock Holmes film.

East Haddam Business Association – Mr. Casner reported that the Business Association continues to research options for a town newspaper. Ms. Rubenbauer suggested EDC and/or the Business Association place a full page, group business ad in one of the existing local papers to raise awareness for East Haddam businesses. Mr. Casner agreed to bring the suggestion to the EHBA's attention.

NEW BUSINESS

Mail Received – Mr. Casner advised the Commissioners that Mr. Bergeron had received correspondence advising him that his term on the EDC expires at the end of the month.

MOTION MADE BY MS. MATHIASEN, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RENEW MR. BERGERON’S TERM AS AN ALTERNATE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR THREE YEARS. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Public Comment/Other/EDC Ordinance Review/Other – Ms. McNary advised that she recently moved to East Haddam and noted the difficulty in finding out about businesses and services in town.

Mr. Bergeron reported that the Lion’s Ladies Night at Grandview was very successful.

Ms. Mathiasen distributed a newsletter put out by the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (COG). She noted that the COG has received a CT OPM grant to research a regional economic strategy. Ms. Mathiasen agreed to add all of the EDC Commissioners to the distribution list for the newsletter. She further reported that the COG had completed an informal tourism study and she expects to receive the data from the study in the near future.

Mr. Casner advised that the Goodspeed had thanked him for EDC’s support of its Planning & Zoning Commission application to extend the Gelston House’s music hours.

The Commissioners’ discussed the fact that the July meeting is scheduled at the beginning of the July 4th weekend. It was agreed to cancel the July 2 meeting.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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