

Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2015

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

Absent: J. Albuquerque; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; F. Weissbach

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He sat Mr. Staehly for Mr. Rucker and Mr. Bergeron for Mr. Albuquerque.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from their September 3, 2015 regular meeting and their September 15, 2015 special meeting.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. STAEHLY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons reviewed his October 1st report, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Simmons stated that he has been assisting Mr. D’Onofrio with navigating the Department of Labor process for hiring new staff for New England Propeller. He noted that Mr. D’Onofrio would like to give hiring preference to veterans.

There was a brief discussion regarding the referendum on the Community Center for Agriculture STEAP grant.

Mr. Simmons advised that the RiverCOG has hired a consultant to develop a regional economic development strategy for the Lower River Valley towns and stated he will forward the Commissioners any information he receives related to the project. Several of the Commissioners stated that they had attended mini information gathering sessions related to the project.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Parady, Mr. Casner advised that there are generally 12-15 vendors at the Farmers’ Market and he believes that it has been profitable for them. Mr. Staehly advised that the Agriculture Commission had received a complaint from a local grower who was not allowed to join the Market because it already had a vendor that offered the same produce.

First Selectman Update – There was no First Selectmen’s update at the meeting.

EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner stated that the joint P&Z/EDC Waste Water Committee had turned in their final report and he expects that P&Z will next review EDC’s Chapter 8 draft for the Plan of Conservation and Development. He noted that EDC should review the latest draft and make any necessary updates before P&Z’s review.

Mr. Casner advised that a joint meeting of the Haddam and East Haddam EDCs would be held at 7:30 p.m. on October 14th at the Riverhouse. The Commissioners discussed agenda items for the meeting.

P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee – Moodus & Rt. 82/151 – Mr. Casner called the Commissioners’ attention to the report issued by the P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee, dated September 15, 2015. He stated that the report recommends forming another joint committee to review and recommend ways to streamline the zoning designations in the 4-Corners area. In response to a question from Ms. Mathiasen, he stated that it would be appropriate to send out a press release on the findings of the joint committee once P&Z has completed their review of the report.

Mr. Casner said that he feels it was a very positive step to have P&Z and EDC collaborate on this project.

Goodspeed Landing Committee – Mr. Casner advised that the next step in the project to secure the state’s agreement for an alternative access to the Town Office Site is to hire a surveyor to establish site lines at the preferred site. He noted that the average speed of cars traveling through the area could have an impact on the state’s required site lines.

Mr. Casner advised that he had received a quote of \$1250.00 from Bob Weaver to do the calculations on the site lines and recommended that EDC fund the expense through their budget.

MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. BOB WEAVER TO SURVEY THE SITE LINES AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 149 AND BROOM ROAD FOR A FEE OF \$1,250.00 AND PROVIDE ROGER NEMERGUT WITH THE RELATED SITE LINE CALCULATIONS.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Staehly, Mr. Casner clarified the type of surveying work Mr. Weaver would perform for the project.

UNANIMOUS AYE.

Tourism Committee – Ms. Mathiasen stated that she feels the Fall Weekend accomplished her goal of highlighting East Haddam in several state and regional communications. There was a general discussion regarding the events of the weekend and Mr. Staehly stated that he feels the lawn signs posted around town were successful in bringing in out-of-town visitors; however, he had gotten feedback that local residents were not aware of the many of the events. Ms. Mathiasen recommended choosing the 2016 dates with the Business Association this January.

East Haddam Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the EHBA held a career date at the High School. Mr. Casner suggested a joint EHBA/EDC meeting and the Commissioners agreed to extend an invitation to EHBA to attend their January meeting.

East Haddam News – Ms. Mathiasen described the advertising program EDC sponsors in the Events magazine and provided information on other possible ways to provide support to the East Haddam News. The Commissioners discussed how to support the newspaper but did not develop a program at the meeting. They agreed to keep the item on the agenda so that they could continue to discuss potential avenues of support. Mr. Casner abstained from the discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Guests – There was no discussion under this agenda item.

Mail Received – Ms. Mathiasen advised that she received a flier from Susan Pagnano regarding approximately 2000 sq. ft. of retail space she has in her shop, Susan’s Salon, which she would like to rent out.

Public Comment/Other/EDC Ordinance Review/Other – There was no further discussion at the meeting.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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