

October 1, 2015

To: Mark B. Walter, First Selectman
Robert Casner, Chairman
East Haddam Economic Development Commissioners

From: Peter Simmons, Economic Development Coordinator

Subj: Economic Development Progress Report #43 – September 2015

1. Business Development

a. New England Propeller

- i. Continued work on tax incentive agreement
- ii. Updated agreement prepared and submitted to NEPS
- iii. Planning to plan approval on BOS/BOF October agendas

b. The Fresh Kitchen

- i. New Breakfast Shop in Grist Mill Plaza
- ii. Assisted in finding potential financing
- iii. Received application for assistance through East Haddam Tax Incentive Program
 - i. Reviewing application and business plan
 - ii. Applicant needs to submit a copy of the lease agreement
 - iii. Small-scale Project

c. Researched and evaluated a Farm Tax Incentive Program. Provided report to Selectman's Office and EDC Chair.

d. Assisted a business in drafting their business plan (confidential)

2. Planning & Zoning

- a. Resubmitted the Revised Proposed IG Zone package to Town Land Use for review

3. STEAP Grant: Harris Project

- a. Completed various task related to preserving the STEAP Grant funding
- b. October 1 Referendum to abandon the community agriculture project and returned grant to State

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The EDC needs to determine its role with projects
- b. The Town needs to determine what kinds of economic development project it wishes to support. The C & D Plan mandates need to be included in the discussion, i.e. pursue all available grant resources, support agriculture, etc.
- c. **EDC should host a workshop**, open to boards, commissions and the public should be well advertised to solicit public input.
- d. Future economic development projects will need significant outreach and consensus building. In particular those, which will require investment such as: 1) public funding to sewer the four corners; or revitalizing East Haddam Village.