

## Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2015

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; D. Mathiasen; R. Parady; K. Staehly; F. Weissbach

Absent: J. Albuquerque; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator)

Guests: E. Blaschik; K. DeVeau; C. Gelston; S. Wheeler; M. Ziobron

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He sat Mr. Staehly for Mr. Rucker and Mr. Bergeron for Ms. Rubenbauer.

Mr. Casner introduced Representative Ziobron who stated that she was attending the meeting to recognize Ms. Mathiasen who had submitted her resignation from EDC after 16 years of volunteer service. Representative Ziobron presented Ms. Mathiasen with a citation from the State of CT. Mr. Casner presented Ms. Mathiasen with a proclamation from the Town of East Haddam recognizing her numerous efforts on behalf of the Town. Mr. Casner thanked Ms. Mathiasen, on behalf of all the Commissioners, for her many years of service.

**Minutes** – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from their November 5, 2015 regular meeting.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2015 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Status Reports:**

**EDC Chairman Update** – Mr. Casner reported that he has been discussing the Economic Development Coordinator position with the First Selectman. He stated that, in light of the many projects the Town is embarking on, as well as the proposed Village revitalization project, they have been discussion combining the Coordinator position with the vacant Zoning Enforcement Officer position to achieve more hours for the role.

Mr. Weissbach noted that applicants should be advised that the Village revitalization project will be a primary focus for the position and that individuals being considered should have a broad range of planning/development/construction skillsets. Mr. Casner confirmed that he and the First Selectmen have discussed those issues and also the option of a contract position vs. an employee. Mr. Bergeron noted that the Village project should not exclude the other business support the Coordinator position has provided in the past.

There was a general discussion regarding the reporting structure for the position and Mr. Weissbach noted the importance of encouraging bi-partisan support for the Village project. He also suggested the Town consider the option of creating a not-for-profit entity to develop and manage the Town Office site when discussing the sell vs. lease approach for the property

Mr. Casner reported that Mr. Nemergut had developed plans for an alternate access to the Town Office site that meets the posted speed limit requirements. He noted that the state can modify the requirements if the actual average speed limit at the location is greater than what is posted. There was a general discussion about submitting the plan to the state Department of Transportation and requesting a permit for the proposed access site. Rep. Ziobron encouraged the Commissioners to let her office know when they are going to approach DOT so that she can assist with the process.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO AUTHORIZE MR. NEMERGUT TO SUBMIT THE PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED ALTERNATE ACCESS TO THE TOWN OFFICE SITE ON ROUTE 149 TO THE CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND REQUEST A PERMIT FOR SAME. HE FURTHER MOVED THAT THE EXPENSE FOR THAT WORK WOULD BE FUNDED BY THE BALANCE REMAINING IN THE COMMISSION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR BUDGET LINE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner stated that he would coordinate a meeting of the Goodspeed Landing sub-committee with Town officials to request further direction for EDC. There was a general discussion about building a coalition of support for the project. Ms. Mathiasen noted that the project will require multi-Commission involvement and suggested the sub-committee ask Town

officials if the project should continue to be included in EDC's budget or if a different budgetary structure would be more appropriate.

Mr. Casner stated that EDC's revised Chapter 8 will be considered by the Planning & Zoning Commissioners at their February meeting.

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter was not in attendance at the meeting but Mr. Casner reported that he had asked that the EDC Commissioners consider whether they wanted the Town to re-submit its STEAP grant request for improvements to the Transfer Station or pursue funding for a different project. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of requesting a STEAP grant to demolish the garage on the Town Office site but agreed that they did not want to abandon their support of the commercial haulers at this time.

MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. WEISSBACH, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE TOWN RE-SUBMIT ITS STEAP GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRANSFER STATION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

P&Z/EDC Waste Water Joint Committee – Moodus & Rt. 82/151 – Mr. Casner reported that the sub-committee's final report was filed with the Planning & Zoning Commission. He stated that their next step is to determine if there is any value to extending the sewer lines up to the Four-Corners area.

Goodspeed Landing Committee – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.

Agriculture Commission – Mr. Casner reported that the representatives of EDC and the Ag Commission are meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> to review the Town's regulations related to the uses of agriculture buildings and, particularly, how they apply to the poultry industry. There was a general discussion regarding the poultry industry in East Haddam.

Tourism Committee – Ms. Mathiasen reported the following:

- Fresh Kitchen in the Gristmill Plaza opened on November 30<sup>th</sup> and have asked to be listed in the Town's business directory.
- She will attend the regional tourism meeting and forward any pertinent information on to EDC.
- She will renew EDC's membership in the East Haddam Business Association.

Ms. Mathiasen stated that she will continue to forward ad renewal requests and other tourism related emails to the Commissioners.

East Haddam Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Association's next event is a holiday stroll to visit the businesses in the Village.

East Haddam News – There was no update on this agenda item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Guests – There were no guest presentations at the meeting.

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

Public Comment/Other/EDC Ordinance Review/Other – Ms. DeVeau stated that she feels the East Haddam Newspaper is a valuable source of information. She stated that she has learned about what is going on in Town as well as what businesses and services are available.

Mr. Weissbach advised that, after 18 years of renting space, Franklin Academy recently purchased the property on which it is located.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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