

**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 4, 2016**

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; R. Parady; S. Smith; K. Staehly; F. Weissbach  
Absent: J. Albuquerque; P. Rubenbauer; R. Snow  
Guests: C. Brownell; J. Curtin; B. Gillis; L. Salicrup; L. Salicrup

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He sat Ms. Smith for Mr. Albuquerque.

**Minutes** – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the April 13, 2017 meeting.

MR. PARADY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. STAEHLY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AS WRITTEN. MR. BERGERON AND MR. WEISSBACH ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY OF AYES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Status Reports:**

1. EDC Chairman Update

Mr. Casner recognized Ms. Mathiasen who provided an overview of the state's support of regional tourism. She advised that she had recently attended a CT tourism conference. She noted that the governor's budget did not include any funding to reinstate a broad base of support for regional tourism; however, the Appropriations Committee's version did include funding for regional tourism support. She stated that there is a skeleton staff in the CT Department of Tourism and she provided the Commissioners with contact information.

There was a general discussion about scheduling a joint meeting with the Haddam EDC and the state's tourism marketing representative. Ms. Mathiasen stated that planning is underway for the state's 2018 tourism magazines and the deadline for including copy is August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Mathiasen advised that the CT Office of the Arts is still funding arts, cultural and historical related sites and programs from which East Haddam could benefit.

Mr. Casner thanked Ms. Mathiasen for her presentation.

- i. EDC Coordinator Position – Mr. Casner reported that he expects the joint Haddam/East Haddam EDC Coordinator position will be filled this month. He stated that it will be a 28 hour position and the salary expense will be shared equally by both towns.
2. First Selectmen's Report – Mr. Lyman was not in attendance at this meeting, consequently, no report was made.
3. Goodspeed Landing Committee – The Commissioners discussed Goodspeed Landing with the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commissioners in attendance and their discussion is reported on under New Business Agenda item #1. There was no additional discussion on this agenda item.

In consideration of the P&Z Commissioners' time, Mr. Casner stated that he would like to move to item #1 under New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. P&Z Presentation – Request for Input on Plan of Conservation & Development – Mr. Casner noted that EDC had worked with P&Z last year to re-write Chapter 8. He recognized Mr. Brownell who advised that the Town is required to update the Plan of Conservation and Development every 10 years and the P&Z Commissioners will be sending out a questionnaire to survey citizens regarding the Town's conservation and development plans. He noted that the Commissioners are requesting input from the Town's Boards and Commissions prior to sending out the survey.

Mr. Casner noted that only 5% of the Town's taxable property is designated as commercial and advised that most towns this size have a goal of allocating 15-20% of their taxable property to commercial use. In response to a question from Mr. Casner, Mr. Brownell stated that P&Z is considering hiring a consultant to help update the Plan. Mr. Casner agreed to forward contact information for the consultant that is working on the Town of Haddam's Plan.

There was a general discussion regarding the existing Plan of Conservation & Development and the EDC's Commissioners noted that the lack of infrastructure such as public water and sewers impedes commercial development. Mr. Weissbach and Ms. Smith reiterated that the Village area will need to be revitalized after the Town Offices move out and there was a general discussion about plans for the area. Mr. Brownell emphasized that the Plan of Conservation & Development should not provide a "vision" for the Town; however, it should include which aspects will be needed to achieve a potential development plan.

Mr. Curtin noted that the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWWC) are frequently involved in determining the uses of property in Town. Mr. Casner suggested representatives from EDC collaborate with representatives from P&Z and IWWC to identify opportunities and obstacles for commercial development that can be addressed in the Plan of Conservation & Development. In the meantime, Mr. Gillis requested the EDC Commissioners provide a list of priorities that they feel are needed for economic development. Mr. Brownell stated P&Z would like EDC's feedback in 30-60 days.

Mr. Casner thanked the P&Z Commissioners for including EDC in the planning phase of updating the current Plan of Conservation & Development.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

4. Agriculture Committee – There was no update on this agenda item.
5. Tourism Committee –
  - i. Fall Weekend with Haddam – There was no new update on this agenda item.
  - ii. East Haddam News/INK – Business Profiles – Mr. Staehly reported that the Events magazine allows all of the Town's Boards and Commissions to publish an article, free of charge, in each edition. He stated that, going forward, he will draft an article for EDC's submission, for each edition, highlighting several local businesses.
  - iii. Business Brochure – Ms. Smith displayed a mock-up of the new East Haddam Tourism Guide and reviewed its contents and layout. She stated that it will be a multi-page brochure and she has received a quote of \$1,500.00 to print 5000 copies, exclusive of design costs.

MR. STAEHLY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. WEISSBACH, TO AUTHORIZE MS. SMITH TO PRINT 5,000 TOURISM GUIDES FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500.00 PLUS DESIGN COSTS.  
UNANIMOUS AYE.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Mail Received – Mr. Casner advised that EDC received a membership renewal notice from the CT EDC Association. He noted that the cost to renew was \$150.00. There was a general discussion about whether or not to renew EDC's membership and the consensus was to let it lapse.
3. Pay Bills – There were no bills paid.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment at the meeting.

### **OTHER, EDC ORDINANCE REVISION**

Mr. Staehly advised that the CT Wine Passport program re-starts on May 5<sup>th</sup>. He stated that over 2,300 passport holders visited Staehly Farms last year attracting tourists to the Town.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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