

**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2017**

Attending: J. Albuquerque; D. Bergeron; R. Casner; K. Staehly

Absent: R. Parady; S. Smith; F. Weissbach

Guests: M. Belcher; E. Blaschik; D. DuBay; J. Fennema; I. Haines; D. Jahne; E. Lyman; K. O'Boyle; R. Smith; S. Waite; S. Wheeler; K. Whitbread

Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes** – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the October 5, 2017 meeting. Two revisions to the minutes were noted.

MR. BERGERON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. ALBUQUERQUE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2017 AS AMENDED. MR. STAEHLY ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Status Reports:**

A. **EDC Chairman Update** – Mr. Casner reported on the following:

- He is working on putting the environmental testing of the garage floor out to bid.
- Ms. Rubenbauer submitted a verbal resignation to the First Selectman. He suggested that Ms. Smith's membership be changed from Alternate to Regular Commissioner. The Commissioners agreed that Ms. Smith was an asset to EDC and should be made a regular member.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BERGERON, SECONDED BY MR. ALBUQUERQUE, TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN CHANGE SUSAN SMITH'S MEMBERSHIP STATUS FROM ALTERNATE TO REGULAR COMMISSIONER. UNANIMOUS AYE.

- i. EDC Coordinator Update – Ms. Waide distributed a report of her activities during the period of September 5<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. She reviewed a number of items on the report.

B. **First Selectmen's Update** – Mr. Lyman reported on the following items:

- He received an email from the state advising that they are going to de-fund the STEAP grant awarded to the Town for the proposed Agriculture Center. They advised, however, that before they de-fund the grant, the Town can apply for reimbursement for any funds spent on the project.
- Shagbark's solar array is up and running and generated approximately \$21,000.00 last month. The Town will receive 10% of that to go toward the Board of Education's electric expense. He noted that those amounts are consistent with what was projected for the project. He also noted that the Town had been contacted by RPR regarding sponsoring its own commercial solar array. He stated that other towns have done so but he wants to wait to see how the Shagbark array works before making any decisions.
- There is a new employee at the Transfer Station who is replacing an employee who resigned. He noted that the Transfer Station cannot operate safely and efficiently with less than 3 full time employees.
- Eversource anticipates that less than 20 homes will be without power by Friday morning.

C. Goodspeed Landing Committee – Mr. Casner reported that Rob Smith had made a presentation at a recent Village Revitalization Committee meeting suggesting an alternative traffic plan for the Village area. He introduced Mr. Smith who presented his roadway plan and several benefits were noted by Mr. Smith and the Commissioners. There was a general discussion regarding pedestrian traffic and Mr. Casner stated that he felt the plan appears to be business and pedestrian friendly.

D. Agriculture Committee - There was no update on this agenda item.

E. Tourism Committee

1. Fall Weekend – Wrap Up – Mr. Casner reported that he had received an email from Mr. Bradway of the Essex Steam Train stating that he felt the East Haddam Fall Weekend went very well. Mr. Bradway thanked the committee for all their work and stated he wanted the Essex Steam Train to continue to be involved.

Mr. Staehly reported that the Fall Weekend went very well. He stated that the participation of Julia Balfour added a level of professionalism to the marketing for the event. He advised that the Fall Weekend was listed on the state's Visit CT website and there were over 1200 unique views for the event between August 25<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Staehly stated that he estimated approximately 1500 people visited over that weekend.

Mr. Casner complimented Mr. Staehly and Ms. Smith on their coordination of the Fall Weekend events. Mr. Bergeron noted that Mr. Bradway frequently provides East Haddam with good PR.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Goodspeed Landing Roadway Design – Rob Smith Presentation – This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on under New Business – Goodspeed Landing Committee.
2. Review of Chatham Health District Performance – Mr. Casner noted that a number of businesses have expressed their dissatisfaction with the services provided by Chatham Health District (CHD). Mr. Lyman requested specific examples where CHD fell short and Mr. Staehly agreed to send him an email outlining problems the food trucks at his business experienced related to the Fall Weekend. Mr. Staehly also noted that the fees charged for a temporary food service license were very high.
3. Mail Received – Mr. Casner advised that he had received an application for EDC membership from Jim Fennema. He introduced Mr. Fennema who provided some personal and professional background information. Mr. Fennema stated that he is a retired civil engineer. The Commissioners reviewed Mr. Fennema's application.

MR. STAELY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. ALBUQUERQUE, TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPOINT MR. FENNEMA AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. Pay Bills – There were no bills to be paid.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Haines noted that Fuss and O'Neill did the soil tests and abatement at the Municipal Office Building project and suggested EDC consider them to do the tests on the garage floor at the Town Hall Office Site. Mr. Casner advised that the project will go out to bid and, if Fuss and O'Neill submits a bid, their work at the Municipal Office Building project will be taken into consideration. It was also noted that there is an environmental consultant who is a local resident.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler

Recording Secretary