

**East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Village Revitalization Committee
Special Joint Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2017**

Attending (EDC): R. Casner; R. Parady; S. Smith; K. Staehly; F. Weissbach
Attending (VRC): R. Casner; R. Dill; J. Curtin; W. Gerrish; M. Kolek; G.T. Smith; M. Walter
Absent: J. Albuquerque; D. Bergeron; W. Brady; M. Gionta; P. Rubenbauer
Guests: E. Blaschik; D. Dubay; D. Nelson

1. Call to order – Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.
2. Attendance – The Economic Development Commissioners and Village Revitalization Committee members introduced themselves.
3. Approval of Minutes – 6/22 Regular EDC Meeting – The EDC Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the June 22, 2017 Special Meeting.

MS. SMITH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING AS WRITTEN. MR. WEISSBACH ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. OLD BUSINESS –

A. Status Reports:

1. EDC Chairman Update
 - i. EDC Coordinator position – Mr. Casner advised that a part-time EDC Coordinator had been hired by the Town.
2. First Selectman update – There was no First Selectmen update given at the meeting.
3. Goodspeed Landing Committee – Mr. Casner welcomed the attendees and stated the purpose of the meeting. He recognized Mr. Gerrish, the Chairman of the Village Revitalization Committee (VRC).

Mr. Gerrish provided some background on the Village Revitalization Committee. He noted that it had been established several years ago and, in light of the planned move for the municipal offices to Moodus, was recently reconvened.

Ms. Kolek reviewed the activities of the VRC since its inception in 2008 and stated she would provide the EDC Commissioners with minutes and other documentation regarding the research that had been done.

Mr. Casner advised that in 2014-15 the EDC had gotten involved in the project at the request of First Selectman. He reviewed the actions taken by EDC and several outstanding issues.

The meeting participants discussed the possible contamination under the Town garage floor and it was noted that the property had previously been used as a CT DOT facility. They also discussed the scope of the revitalization project and agreed that it could benefit from a master plan and/or town planner.

Mr. Gerrish stated that it would be helpful to try to line up a tenant for the Town Office building rather than leaving it vacant when the offices move to the new municipal building.

The participants agreed on the following next steps:

- Test the ground under the town garage for contaminants.

- Re-open discussions with the Goodspeed management.
- Strategically decide which properties the Town would like to secure a “right of first refusal to purchase” for the project.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WITH THE VILLAGE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS, A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. CASNER, SECONDED BY MR. GERRISH, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT MEETING AT 8:50 P.M. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner reconvened the Economic Development Commission at 8:51 p.m.

4. OLD BUSINESS – (continued)

A. Status Reports:

5. Agriculture Committee – There was no Agriculture Committee report given at the meeting.

6. Tourism Committee

1. Fall Weekend – Funding Request – Mr. Staehly reported that the Tourism Committee had met twice since the last EDC meeting to plan for the Fall Weekend. He reviewed the scheduled events and stated that they are working with Julia Balfour on marketing. He stated that Ms. Balfour and the Committee feel that taking out a large ad in the East Haddam News and printing up window posters for businesses to display will be the most cost-effective way to get the word out to the public

MR. WEISSBACH MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO ALLOCATE \$1,500.00 FOR THE DESIGN AND PURCHASE OF AN AD IN THE EAST HADDAM NEWS AND WINDOW POSTERS FOR THE 2017 FALL WEEKEND. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Smith stated that it will be important to get the Business Association involved in future events.

5. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2017/2018 EDC Budget Changes – Mr. Casner provided an update on the changes to the final 2017/2018 EDC Budget.
2. Mail received – There was no mail discussed at the meeting.
3. Pay bills - There were no bills discussed at the meeting.
6. Public Comment – Mr. Nelson advised that he is a member of the Historic District Commission. He stated that the Village is a designated historic district and that some of the properties that may be considered “strategically important” to the project may also be historic. He strongly recommended that the Historic District Commission be kept informed regarding the revitalization plans.
7. Adjournment – The Commissioners agreed to cancel their September 7, 2017 EDC meeting.

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

The special meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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