

**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 4, 2018**

Attending: R. Casner; J. Fennema; I. Haines; R. Parady; S. Smith

Absent: J. Albuquerque; D. Bergeron; F. Weissbach

Guests: E. Lyman

- I. Call To Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.
- II. Attendance – Mr. Casner seated Mr. Fennema in place of Mr. Bergeron and Ms. Haines in place of Mr. Albuquerque.
- III. Approval of Minutes – Regular meeting of 9/6/18 – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2018.

MOTION MADE BY MR. FENNEMA, SECONDED BY MS. HAINES, TO APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 AS WRITTEN.  
UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

A. Status Reports

1. EDC Chairman Update

- a. EDC Administrator position – Mr. Casner reported that the job description for this position has been posted on the Town’s website and in local publications. He noted that there is no expiration date on the posting so it will run until the position is filled. He stated that he would like to establish a sub-committee to interview candidates and Mr. Fennema volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Mr. Casner stated he would also ask Mr. Bergeron to serve on the interview committee.
- b. Goodspeed Landing – Old Town Office Site – In response to a question from Mr. Casner, Mr. Lyman stated that he has not yet received the final environmental review report for the site but his next steps are to develop a plan to deal with any issues raised in the report. Mr. Lyman further advised that an RFP is being developed to solicit proposals from developers.

Mr. Casner stated that the last meeting of the East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee had good public attendance and that many suggestions and concerns were raised at the meeting.

## 2. First Selectmen Update

Mr. Lyman provided the following updates:

- The Town's current priority is dealing with the damage to Town roads cause by the heavy rain that occurred the evening of September 25-26. He stated that a preliminary rough estimate is that it will cost over \$5M to repair the damage and that he is looking into the feasibility of applying for FEMA funds. In response to questions from the Commissioners, Mr. Lyman confirmed that, with the notable exception of the Goodspeed properties, most of the Town's businesses were not badly impacted by the flooding.
- He recently attended a meeting of the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC) where it was reported that \$400,000.00 is available for business loans. He noted that several East Haddam businesses have taken advantage of the MCRC loans in the past and he would like EDC to make other Town businesses aware of the MCRC loan program.

The Commissioners discussed the MCRC loan program and agreed to provide information about it at the upcoming Business Expo.

## 3. Goodspeed Landing Committee

This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.

## 4. Tourism Committee

- a. Fall Weekend – Ms. Smith reported that there has been a good amount of publicity for the Fall Weekend and noted that the Hartford Courant listed several of the events on its Events Calendar. She stated that plans for the weekend are coming together smoothly and stated that she will ask businesses to conduct an informal exit survey of their customers to try to determine how the events impacted business in Town.

There was a general discussion about the bonfire planned for Saturday night and several Commissioners volunteered to assist in setting up for the event.

- B. Possible Expansion of Industrial Area in IG Zone – Mr. Casner advised that this issue will be considered by the Planning & Zoning Commission. He noted that EDC supports Shagbark's request for the expansion of the industrial zone around their business and encouraged Commissioners to attend P&Z meetings when the item is on their agenda.
- C. Possibility of Creating a Business District in the 4-Corners Town Street Area South – Mr. Casner reiterated that P&Z is considering addressing this issue in the updates to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

- D. Chatham Health – Mr. Casner reported that he and Ms. Haines met with Don Mitchell, Director of the Chatham Health District. He stated that Chatham Health now has a sanitarian on site at the Municipal Office Facility on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He also advised that the Town pays an annual fee of \$105,000.00 for its contract with Chatham Health and collects approximately \$24,000.00 annually in fees from East Haddam citizens and businesses. In response to a question from Ms. Smith, Mr. Casner stated that they did not discuss establishing a separate fee structure for small vendors; however, the fees imposed by Chatham Health are comparable to those of other health districts.
- E. Plan of Conservation & Development – Mr. Casner stated that P&Z is currently in the information gathering phase for updates to the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development. He suggested that EDC should submit its thoughts concerning commercial districts in a letter to P&Z.

V. New Business

- A. Vision/Mission Statement – Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.
- B. Business of the Month – November – Nomination/Vote – The Commissioners identified several businesses for the November Business of the Month award.

MOTION MADE BY, MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. CASNER, TO RECOGNIZE HIGHER GROUNDS AS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPOMENT COMMISSION’S NOVEMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Smith suggested purchasing an “EDC Welcomes A New Business” banner to use when new businesses open up in Town. Mr. Parady stated he would donate the cost of the banner.

VI. Public Comment – There was no public comment at the meeting.

VII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Wheeler