

**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 7, 2019**

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; J. Fennema; R. Parady; S. Smith  
Absent: J. Albuquerque; I. Haines; F. Weissbach

Guests: E. Blaschik; E. Lyman

1. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Attendance – Mr. Casner sat Mr. Fennema for Mr. Weissbach.
3. Approval of Minutes

**Regular Meeting – January 3, 2019**

The review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2019 was postponed.

4. Old Business

A. Status Reports

1. EDC Chairman Update

- a. EDC Administrator Position – Mr. Casner reported that Suzan Smith had accepted the position of Economic Development Administrator.
- b. Goodspeed Landing—Old Town Office Site – In response to an inquiry from Mr. Casner, Mr. Lyman advised that he is doing a final review of the draft RFQ for developers for the old Town Office site prior to sending it to the Town’s attorneys for review. He stated that the goal is to release the RFQ by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. First Selectman Update

- a. Building Department – Mr. Lyman reported that the Town had posted the opening for a Building Official and has received three applications. He advised that the deadline to submit applications is February 21<sup>st</sup> and he expects a new Building Inspector will be in place within 3-4 weeks after that.
- b. Transfer Station – Mr. Lyman reported that, as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, the fee for depositing bulky waste at the Transfer Station was increased from \$100/ton to \$120/ton and advised that the electrical problem that interfered with running the hopper has been repaired.

Mr. Lyman stated that the Town will be implementing the bag-system and a representative from DEEP will assist with developing a SMART (Save Money and Recycle Trash) marketing/educational program to introduce the system to residents. He noted that the Town could save a significant amount of money if the current rate of recycling (24%) is increased and he expects the bag-system will encourage more recycling.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Casner, Mr. Lyman reported that the haulers have agreed not to bring trash to the Town’s Transfer Station after the bag-system is implemented. He stated

that they can contract with Willimantic, or any other regional transfer station, and that they believe the cost of doing so will be supported by an increased customer base.

### 3. Economic Development Administrator Report

Ms. Smith reported on the following:

- She updated EDC's section of the Plan of Conservation & Development.
- She participated in a Lower CT River EDC meeting.
- She met with representatives from CTVisit where:
  - They provided a tutorial on how to maximize use of their website;
  - She and Mr. Casner took them on a tour of tourism sites in East Haddam, and
  - They discussed ways to increase the Town's presence in CT's tourism related activities.
- She completed and submitted an application to the Smithsonian Magazine for consideration of East Haddam to be included in the magazine's 2020 Top 20 Small Towns to Visit list.
- She met with several business owners in Moodus.
- She got an estimate from Getty Granite for an engraved granite bench to place at Heritage Park in memory of Jack Herman.
- She scheduled a meeting with Deb Mathiasen to discuss tourism related topics.

Ms. Smith advised that she would be attending the Small Business Owner's event at the state capitol next month and noted that she has extra tickets if any of the Commissioners would like to attend.

### 4. Tourism Committee

Ms. Smith reported the following:

- The Tourism brochures are being updated and she will order a new supply once the update is completed.
- She participated in a planning meeting for the Business Association's spring Celebrate East Haddam event.

- B. Proposed expansion of the industrial area in the IG zone – There was no new update on this agenda item.
- C. Chatham Health Oversight Review Committee – Ms. Smith reported that the Chatham Health District is taking steps to improve their customer service. She advised that First Selectman Lyman will provide a monthly update on their progress at the regular EDC meetings.
- D. Plan of Conservation & Development – Ms. Smith distributed copies of the updated EDC section of the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development. She reviewed the changes that had been made to the section and noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission is holding another meeting for public input on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Casner stated that only 4% of the Town's grand list is commercial property and noted that that is very low in comparison to other CT municipalities of East Haddam's size and make-up. There was a general discussion regarding how to encourage business growth.

- E. Business of the Month – March 2019 Nominations and Vote – Ms. Smith suggested the Middlesex Primary Care center be nominated as March's Business of the Month. Mr. Casner supported her suggestion and noted that the physicians had taken over a vacant building in Moodus and, by their association with Middlesex Hospital, have expanded the list of services they offer to the Town citizens.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. FENNEMA, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO NAME MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL PRIMARY CARE AS EDC'S MARCH 2019 BUSINESS OF THE MONTH. UNANIMOUS AYE.**

5. New Business

- A. Nominations for Regular Member – Mr. Casner noted that since Ms. Smith had resigned from EDC to assume the Economic Development Administrator position, there was an opening for a regular member. He suggested Mr. Fennema status be changed from alternate to regular member.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BERGERON, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT MR. FENNEMA BE MADE A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. MR. FENNEMA ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

- B. Nominations for Alternate Member – Mr. Casner noted that since it was being recommended to be changed Mr. Fennema's status to regular member, there is now an opening for an alternate member. He advised that Mr. Robidoux, who is a member of the East Haddam Business Association, had submitted an application for membership on EDC.

MOTION MADE BY MR. CASNER, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT MR. ROBIDOUX BE MADE AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

6. Public Comment – In response to an inquiry from Mr. Blaschik, Mr. Casner stated that the discussion that was held before the regular EDC meeting, regarding the on-going oversight of Chatham Health, was inadvertently not posted as a public meeting. Ms. Smith offered to provide Mr. Blaschik with her findings and answer any questions he had.

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Wheeler