

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

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; J. Fennema; R. Parady; M. Robidoux  
Absent: J. Albuquerque; J. Stone

Guests: S. Wheeler

1. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Attendance – Attendance was noted.
3. Approval of Minutes

**Regular Meeting – October 3, 2019**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2019.

MOTION MADE BY MR. FENNEMA, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2019 AS WRITTEN. MR. PARADY ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. Old Business

A. Status Reports

1. EDC Chairman Update

- a. Goodspeed Landing – There was no new update on this agenda item.
- b. River Valley Five Town EDC – Mr. Casner reported that this group met recently and he asked Ms. Haines for a report. Ms. Haines stated that representatives from Explore CT Shoreline provided a presentation to the members of the Five Town EDC and they discussed highlighting municipalities, as well as businesses, on the site. East Haddam was selected to be the prototype town and Ms. Haines advised that she was completing a questionnaire for that purpose. She noted that, if there is a fee for adding the Town to the website, it might be covered by a grant from Eversource.
- c. Moodus Center – Mr. Casner reported that the Nathan Hale Pharmacy was bought out by CVS and has been closed. He stated that the Nutmeg Pharmacy Group signed a lease with Dutch Oil for a space on Wlm. F. Palmer Road and is projected to open a new pharmacy there in February. In the meantime, Chairman McKenna stated they would deliver prescriptions to East Haddam residents. Mr. Casner noted that the Nutmeg Group is currently looking for property in Moodus to construct a new building for its pharmacy.

2. First Selectman Update

This agenda item was postponed.

### 3. Economic Development Administrator Report

- a. Tax Incentive Program – Ms. Haines reported that Staehly Farms has re-submitted its application for a tax incentive for its cidery and she and Ms. Zemienski are reviewing it and the procedures for formally accepting the application.

Ms. Haines also reported on the following:

- The state has passed legislation giving municipalities the option to adopt an ordinance that could provide up to 50% tax abatements on farm buildings. There was a general discussion concerning the new legislation.
- Planning for the Town’s Holiday Celebration/Village Stroll, are going well. She advised that approximately \$2,200.00 in sponsorships have been received, with Eversource being the primary donor. Ms. Haines reviewed the planned events and marketing efforts. She asked EDC for a donation to subsidize the cost of printing an Events Schedule for distribution to participants.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON TO DONATE UP TO \$500.00 TO THE VILLAGE STROLL FOR THE COST OF PRINTING A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS CARD. UNANIMOUS AYE.

- She recently attended a CT Opportunity Zone Conference. She noted that all of the state’s “opportunity zones” are located in urban areas, however, the purpose for her attendance was to gather information on how other towns market themselves and their available commercial properties. Ms. Haines circulated several booklets and folders she had collected. The Commissioners discussed putting together a budget to create a similar piece for the Town to present to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance during the next FY’s budget process.
- A writer from the CT Examiner contacted her about doing a piece on East Haddam.

### 4. Tourism Committee

- a. Business Expo - Mr. Robidoux reported that the second Business Expo had been a success with increased participation over last year. He advised that individuals from Colchester and East Hampton reached out to him to discuss doing a joint Expo next year.

Mr. Robidoux also reported the following:

- The Business Association is working on creating a list of recommendations for collaboration between the EDC and the Association.
- The next meeting of the East Haddam Business Association is on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Brushmill Restaurant in Chester. In addition to the regular agenda items, Board elections will be held.
- In response to an inquiry from Mr. Robidoux, Mr. Casner confirmed that he had received the \$125.00 invoice for the Business Expo printing costs and it is being processed.

There was a brief discussion concerning the need for business incubator space in Town.

5. EDC/PZC Sub-Committee – New Business District on Lower Town Street (Rt. 82) – Mr. Casner reported that a map of the proposed boundaries for a new business district on lower Town Street has been finalized. He stated that the committee is currently developing an estimate for securing professional input on creating a presentation of the proposal to present to the Planning & Zoning Commission and at a public hearing.

B. Proposed expansion of the industrial area in the IG zone – There was no new update on this agenda item. In response to a question raised by Mr. Fennema, Mr. Casner provided clarification on the industrial zone expansion in which Shagbark had expressed interest.

5. New Business

A. Business of the Month – Nominations and Vote – The Commissioners discussed several possible nominations for Business of the Month.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BERGERON, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO NAME GINEVA JEWELRY AND JIM CURTIN CONSTRUCTION AS THE DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020 BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH, RESPECTIVELY. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner advised that he had received a bill from the East Haddam News for the Fall Weekend insert.

MOTION MADE BY MR. BERGERON, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO PAY THE \$930.00 INVOICE FROM EAST HADDAM NEWS FOR THE 2019 FALL WEEKEND INSERT. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner noted that Mr. Parady's and Mr. Bergeron's terms on the Commission are up for renewal.

MOTION MADE BY MR. CASNER, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT MR. RALPH PARADY'S 5-YEAR TERM BE RENEWED, TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023, AND MR. DONALD BERGERON'S 5-YEAR TERM BE RENEWED, TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2024. UNANIMOUS AYE.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Wheeler