

Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2011

Attending: D. Mathiasen; E. Odell, R. Parady; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Stricker, M. Ziobron (EDC Coordinator)
Absent: J. Albuquerque; R. Casner; M. Gionta
Guests: H. Kittner; D. McMahon; M. Walter

Mr. Odell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and sat Mr. Parady for Mr. Albuquerque and Ms. Rubenbauer for Mr. Gionta.

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the June 2, 2011 meeting.

MS. STRICKER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Goodspeed Properties – Mr. McMahon and Ms. Kittner reported on the progress of the Actors' Housing project. Ms. Kittner advised that Showboat is going very well and she expects it will be extended a week.

Economic Development Coordinator – Ms. Ziobron distributed a copy of her report which is included as an attachment to these minutes. She reviewed the plans for the Grandview Campground Resort and stated that Planning & Zoning has scheduled a public hearing for the project on July 12.

Ms. Ziobron noted that I-Park has received non-profit status and Mr. Walter advised that they have reached out to him to discuss ways to become more involved with the Town. In response to a question from Mr. Walter, Ms. Ziobron provided some information on Quiet Kyacking's business plan and noted that the owner has opened it for business on a limited basis.

Signage Regulations – Ms. Ziobron advised that the public hearing on the revised signage regulations are scheduled for August 23rd and identified several items in the draft that the Commissioners might want to provide some feedback on. She suggested they provide their feedback in a written letter to the Planning & Zoning Commission prior to the public hearing.

MS. STRICKER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN, THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PRIOR TO AUGUST 23, 2011, OUTLINING EDC'S CONCERNS WITH AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DRAFT ORDINANCE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Ziobron agreed to draft the letter for the Commissioners to review at their August meeting. Ms. Mathiasen recommended sending the business owners a communication with a summary of the changes to the signage regulations and encouraging them to attend the August 23rd public hearing to provide their feedback on the regulations.

East Haddam Village Revitalization Commission & Haddam Land Swap – Mr. Odell stated that the Village Revitalization Commission RFQ has received approval from the Board of Selectmen and is currently being reviewed by the Town attorney.

MS. STRICKER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO SUPPORT THE EAST HADDAM VILLAGE REVITALIZATION COMMISSION'S REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS SOLICITING POTENTIAL PREFERRED DEVELOPERS FOR THE TOWN OFFICE SITE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

In response to a request from Ms. Mathiasen, Mr. Odell stated that he would ask Mr. Garrish to provide her with the EHVR's vision statement. Mr. Walter stated that, in response to a request from Mr. Price, a meeting has been scheduled with several Town representatives and members of the Goodspeed's Board of Directors to discuss the reasonableness of expanding the scope of the project to include some Goodspeed properties and initiatives. There was a general discussion regarding the planned meeting.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen distributed copies of the postcards that had been mailed to business owners soliciting new members for the Association. She reported that the Business Association had been very appreciative of EDC's contribution for the postage for the mailing and for the use of EDC's mailing list. She reported that the Association has plans to participate in the Relay for Life and to organize a town-wide tag sale in October. Ms. Stricker contributed several suggestions for the format of the event from tag sales organized by several of the surrounding towns.

Vacant Properties Options – Sub-Committee Report – There was no update on this agenda item.

Moodus Commercial Infrastructure – Plains Road Proposal – There was no update on this agenda item.

Sunrise – Ms. Stricker reported that there had been a change-over in job responsibilities at the CT DEP which has resulted in further delay of the RFP for the property.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Village Walking Tour – Ms. Mathiasen and Ms. Rubenbauer reported that they have discussed the possibility of partnering with the Historic District Commission to develop a Walking Tour for the Village. Ms. Rubenbauer stated that she will bring this item up to the Historic District Commission for discussion at their next meeting.

Other –

- o Tourism Brochures: Ms. Mathiasen handed out samples of the Tourism brochures and reviewed the distribution list. She also distributed copies of the 2011 Hartford Visitors' Guide which includes a list of East Haddam tourism sites and the EDC advertisement. Ms. Mathiasen agreed to have more EDC business cards printed.

Mr. Walter reported the Town's website has been updated to include a link to existing Town bid requests, RFQs, and RFPs. He also reported that there has been an increase in the use of the Transfer Station by commercial auto repair shops to dispose of used oil and old tires and it is overburdening the system. Ms. Ziobron recommended talking with the businesses to see if a solution could be structured and agreed to work with Ms. Lunt to reach out to the businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

EDC Ordinance – Goals Rewrite Suggestions – There was no update on this agenda item.

Mail received – Ms. Mathiasen and Mr. Odell advised that thank you notes had been received from the Music on the River committee and from the Sportsmen's Club for the donation they received from the funds raised by the Chowder Festival.

Public Comment/Other – Ms. Stricker advised that one of the daycares has expressed concern about the impact of the Park and Rec summer camp program on their summer registrations.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary