

**Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2011**

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

Guests: S. Mackinnon

Mr. Odell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and sat Ms. Rubenbauer for Mr. Gionta and Mr. Parady for Ms. Stricker.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE PUBLIC COMMENT UP AS THE NEXT DISCUSSION ITEM. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Public Comment - Mr. Mackinnon thanked the Commissioners for their consideration. He advised them that representatives from the Board of Selectmen and the Agriculture Commission will be visiting Harwick, VT to learn more about how that town has encouraged and fostered the development of their agriculture economy. He noted that Ms. Ziobron may also join them on the tour. He also stated that the Agriculture Commission would like to enlarge the local farmers' market and is looking for support in their efforts. The Commissioners made several suggestions and Ms. Mathiasen stated EDC would help them with their publicity.

Mr. Mackinnon also informed the Commissioners that the Conservation Commission will be printing up a new trail guide and would appreciate any support EDC could offer. Mr. Odell reviewed an e-mail he received from Ms. Matthews, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, which provided additional details on the trail guide. The Commissioners offered to put some of the trail guides in the new brochure boxes that EDC recently installed in the Village. Mr. Mackinnon thanked the Commissioners and advised that the printed trail guides should be available in September. Ms. Mathiasen suggested the Conservation Commission get back in touch with EDC when the guides are available and EDC would assist them with their promotional efforts including uploading the guides to Town's website.

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the July 7, 2011 meeting.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO APPROVE THE JULY 7, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Goodspeed Properties –Ms. Mathiasen reviewed an e-mail she received from Ms. Kittner providing updates on the Actors Housing project and the Goodspeed shows.

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Odell informed the Commissioners that Ms. Ziobron will be on a leave-of-absence until September 6th. Ms. Mathiasen reported on the following:

- A judge has denied the request for an injunction against Gov. Malloy's plans to discontinue the Hadlyme/Lyme Ferry and Rocky Hill Ferry.
- The Planning & Zoning Commission's public hearing on the Grandview Campground's application has been continued to the August 9th meeting.

Signage Regulations – Ms. Mathiasen distributed a draft copy of an EDC letter to business owners. She reviewed the contents of the letter which included a summary of the proposed signage regulation changes. She noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission will have a public hearing on August 23rd to discuss the changes and noted that the letter encouraged business owners to attend the meeting.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE LETTER DRAFTED BY MS. MATHIASEN BE SENT TO EAST HADDAM BUSINESS OWNERS. UNANIMOUS AYE.

There was a general discussion regarding EDC representation at the public hearing and Mr. Odell stated he would attend.

East Haddam Village Revitalization Commission & Haddam Land Swap – Mr. Odell reported that the Village

Revitalization Commission's RFQ has been posted and the closing date for responses is October 15th. He also noted First Selectmen Walter, Bob Scherrer, and he would be meeting with representatives of Goodspeed's Board of Directors on August 10th to discuss opportunities to include the Goodspeed in the Town's Village Revitalization plans.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen advised that there had been sufficient funds in EDC's budget at the end of the year to make a contribution to help defray the cost of the Business Association's application for non-profit status and that the Association had asked her to express their appreciation for the donation.

Vacant Properties Options – Sub-Committee Report – Mr. Casner reported that, at the sub-committee's last meeting, the Planning & Zoning representatives requested additional addresses be added to the vacant properties list. He noted that due to vacation schedules they have not met again this summer.

Moodus Commercial Infrastructure – Plains Road Proposal – Mr. Casner reported that he had met with First Selectman Walter and Public Works Administrator Lunt to discuss proposed changes to the Plains Road Extension. He noted that the Town had also requested and received an engineering proposal for the project. In response to a question raised by Mr. Parady, Mr. Casner confirmed that they have spoken with the affected property owners who have expressed support for the project.

Sunrise – Ms. Mathiasen reported that a news article reporting on the deterioration of the Sunrise Resort property prompted a letter to DEEP Deputy Commissioner, Frechette, with a copy to First Selectman Walter, recommending the State develop the property for luxury camping. Ms. Mathiasen stated she would ask Ms. Stricker to follow-up on the letter.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Village Walking Tour – Ms. Rubenbauer reported that she and Mr. Parady had installed the brochure boxes in the Village and that they had identified several other locations where they felt the boxes could be used.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO PURCHASE TWO OF THE SIGN/BROCHURE DISPLAYS FROM YUSH SIGN & DISPLAY CO., INC. FOR A MAXIMUM COST OF \$244.00 FOR BOTH. UNANIMOUS AYE.

There was no update on developing a Walking Tour for the Village. Mr. Mackinnon suggested that Mr. Stofko could provide some interesting history for many of the buildings in the Village for the Walking Tour.

Other –

- Tourism Brochures: Ms. Mathiasen solicited feedback on the distribution of the tourism brochures and the Commissioners advised that they had been well-received by the businesses.
- Ms. Mathiasen reported that she has agreed to help MP Impressions create a press release about their move to a new space. She also stated that she would include information about the relocation of Mr. Odell's business to Moodus and Mr. Fellner's to the Village as well as the MP Impressions' move in the Fall edition of the Events Magazine.

NEW BUSINESS

Commercial Use of Transfer Station Policies – Mr. Odell and Ms. Mathiasen reported that Ms. Stricker is researching the Public Works Administrator's concern regarding businesses dumping large amounts of used motor oil and anti-freeze at the Transfer Station. Mr. Odell noted that Mr. Walter has also requested a legal opinion on the issue from the Town's attorney.

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

Mail received – Ms. Mathiasen reported that EDC had received a thank you note from the Food Bank for the donation they received from the funds raised by the Chowder Festival.

Public Comment/Other – Ms. Rubenbauer reiterated, and stated she supported, a suggestion made by Mr. Parady to attach balloons to the brochure boxes to draw attention to them. The Commissioners authorized Ms. Rubenbauer and Mr. Parady to make the decisions on when and on which boxes to attach balloons to.

Mr. Odell solicited volunteer organizations to participate in preparing and serving meals at the Harvest House's weekly dinners.

Ms. Mathiasen reported recent statistics from the Municipal website and noted that there has been a spike in hits on the Mondays before the Music on the River events.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary