

**Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2011**

Attending: R. Casner; D. Mathiasen; R. Parady; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Stricker
Absent: J. Albuquerque; E. Odell
Guests: M. Gionta; H. Kittner; D. McMahon; F. Weissbach

Ms. Stricker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the November 3, 2011 meeting. MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Review Meeting Schedule for 2012 - Ms. Mathiasen advised that the meeting schedule for 2012 was for the first Thursday of each month and recommended the following changes:

- ▶ Change the July 5th meeting to July 12th
- ▶ Change the January 3, 2013 meeting to January 10, 2013

The Commissioners agreed with her recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Goodspeed Properties – Mr. McMahon advised that the Goodspeed is expecting to get the Certificates of Occupancy for the Village Houses next month and the HVAC in the Hilltop houses will be finished completing the Actors' Housing Project. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the project and suggested they could remove this item from their agenda. In response to a question from Ms. Mathiasen, Mr. McMahon advised that the Goodspeed's Board of Directors were having on-going discussions regarding what to do with the other Goodspeed properties.

Ms. Kittner asked that EDC update them when it hires a new Economic Development Coordinator.

Economic Development Coordinator – Ms. Mathiasen reported that she and Mr. Odell are working with an individual who would like to open a coffee shop in the Village.

East Haddam Village Revitalization Commission – Mr. Gionta advised that the Town had received several calls concerning the RFQ for the Village Revitalization project; however, he did not know if any responses had yet been received. He and the Commissioners discussed timing for holding public information meetings about the project and it was noted that First Selectmen Walter provides regular updates to the public via the Events Magazine.

First Selectman Update – There was no First Selectman's report given at the meeting.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Gelston House is a new member of the Business Association. She also advised that the Association will be hosting a social night this month and will again hold a Business Expo during the March Chowder Cook-Off.

Vacant Properties Options – Ms. Mathiasen advised that this item had inadvertently been included on the agenda.

Moodus Commercial Infrastructure – Mr. Casner reported that he met with Mr. Walter regarding the Moodus Commercial Infrastructure project and that he requested it be added to the agenda for an up-coming Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Sunrise – Ms. Stricker reported that the Town has not yet received a copy of the State's RFQ for the Sunrise property and it is not listed on the State's website.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Village Holiday Lighting – Ms. Rubenbauer thanked Mr. Parady and Mr. Casner for their help putting up the tree lights on the Village greens and noted that the electrical service there needs to be upgraded. She stated that additional funding is needed to expand the lighting for next year. The Commissioners discussed several options for raising the funds including asking the Town to create a budget line for holiday decorating.

Town Office Parking Lot – Signs, Lighting and Walkways – Ms. Mathiasen stated she would draft a letter for EDC to submit to the Board of Selectmen encouraging them to add lighting and walkway improvements to the rear section of the Town parking lot.

Pharmacy Letter of Support – Ms. Stricker advised that the State’s recently adopted requirement that State employees purchase their prescriptions from CVS or through the mail has had a negative impact on the Nathan Hale Pharmacy’s business. The Commissioners reviewed a draft letter she composed for EDC to send to the Governor and agreed that it should be sent.

NEW BUSINESS

Commercial Use of Transfer Station Policies – Ms. Mathiasen advised that this item had inadvertently been included on the agenda.

Use of Tax Incentive Program – Mr. Rucker advised that he will contact Mr. Clark to assist him with preparing documentation that will aid in completing an application for a tax rebate from the Town.

EDC Ordinance – Goals/Rewrite Suggestions – Ms. Mathiasen advised that this item had inadvertently been included on the agenda.

Mail Received – Ms. Mathiasen advised that no mail had been received.

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

Ms. Mathiasen advised that the Commission should include an article for publication in the Spring Edition of the Events Magazine and will advise of that date. She also reported on the State Tourism District meeting she had attended earlier in the day.

Mr. Stricker stated that Mr. Weissbach is planning to submit an application to be an alternate member of EDC and invited him to provide the Commissioners with some information on his background. Mr. Weissbach thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to sit in on the EDC meeting. He stated that he is the Head Master of Franklin Academy which is a college preparatory school for students with Nonverbal Learning Differences and Asperger’s Syndrome. He gave a brief overview of the history of the school and stated that it is located on River Road and employs approximately 60 people.

MR. CASNER MOTIONED TO ENTER INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:07P.M. FOR PURPOSES OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL ISSUES. MS. MATHAISEN SECONDED THE MOTION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Gionta was invited into the executive session.

MS. STRICKER MOTIONED TO CONCLUDE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:40 P.M. MR. RUCKER SECONDED THE MOTION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary