

March 1, 2012

To: East Haddam Economic Development Commission  
From: Peter Simmons

Subj: Economic Development Progress Report #21 -- January 24 to February 29, 2012

1. Meetings Past and Planned

- a. Melisa Ziobron: Met with Melisa Z on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> regarding past projects and assignments.
- b. Sunrise Resort: attended the DEEP site walk on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- c. Middlesex County Revitalization Commission on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Chatham Health District on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- e. DOT planned for March 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding the bridge schedule
- f. Seeking a meeting with CERC Real Estate Director

2. Business Development

- a. East Haddam Brewery: Met with Mr. Clark on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to review his progress in opening his brewery. Joe is working with the Essex Savings Bank now to finance his business.
- b. Shagbark: met with Fred and Jodie on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- c. Brownell Company Site: Met with Mr. "Mick" Marsden, the proposed purchaser and the Brownell Company on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Prospective purchaser looking to locate a manufacturing operation on the Moodus property.
- d. Conducted "cold calls" as an introduction to area businesses: Norpro, Dutch Oil, Maus & Son, Hayden Package Store, Sanibells, Bert's Dry Cleaner, Gingerbread Kid's Care, R.A. Parody & Sons, Inc, New England Propeller Service, New England Energy Controls, Inc, MP Impressions, LLC, Susan's Fine Salon & Gathering, Grandview Camp Resort & Cottages and Kandie Carle (East Haddam Stage Company).

3. Agriculture

- a. Coordinated a meeting with CT Department of Agriculture and Town Agriculture Commission members on February 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss state programs to support existing and prospective agricultural businesses. Harvey Thomas, Scot MacKinnon and Jessica Stone represented the Commission.
- b. Town Agricultural Commission
  - i. Plans to pursue an Agriculture Restoration Grant from DoAg
  - ii. Execute a cooperative agreement letter with DoAg to support future farmland preservation
- c. Met with Harvey Thomas on February 13<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Draft letter to Natural Resource Conservation Service requesting a conservation plan for the Harris Property
  - ii. Commission's plans for the Farmer's Market
  - iii. Future meeting with USDA to be arranged

4. CONNDOT Mobility Project

- a. Meeting arranged on March 8 at DOT headquarters in Newington with Fuss & O'Neill, DOT and Goodspeed to finalize construction plans and specifications for the project
- b. Goal to bid, award and complete construction during the 2012 construction season

5. Proposed Initiatives for business development

- a. Website modification to business directory: link to EHBA website
- b. EDC "Business of the Quarter" Awards

- c. Town Bidding and Contracting guidance to draw attention to local contractor preference clauses
- d. Private sector Business to Business collaboration
- e. Enrollment of the town with the Connecticut Main Street Center for technical assistance in the villages of Moodus and Goodspeed.
- f. Connecticut Economic Developer's Association (CEDAS) workshops

6. Next Steps

- a. Continue meetings with town businesses
- b. Set schedule for Mobility Project construction
- c. Sunrise Resort follow up as required