

**Economic Development Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 12, 2012**

Attending: R. Casner; D. Mathiasen; E. Odell; R. Parady; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator)

Absent: J. Albuquerque; F. Weissbach

Guests: None

Mr. Odell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes** – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the May 3, 2012 meeting and the notes from the June 7, 2012 meeting. MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Status Reports:**

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Simmons reviewed several points in his report, a copy of which is attached to and made part of these minutes. He noted that he is starting to get inquiries about the Town's tax incentive program and distributed a fact sheet he had developed about the program. He stated that he has spoken with several businesses about the State's Job Expansion Tax Credit program and also has continued to work with the Agriculture Commission on grant application for the Harris Farm.

Mr. Simmons advised that both of the responders to the State's RFQ for the Sunrise property have been notified that they did not meet the State's qualifications. He stated that his focus at this time is to encourage the State to raise the existing buildings on the property.

In response to a question from Mr. Odell, he stated that Mr. Thiede's offer had been turned down by the bank and that he is now focusing on a different location for his coffee house.

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter was not in attendance; however, Mr. Simmons reported that he has been trying to set-up a meeting with CT DOT to discuss the work schedule for the Village crosswalk project. Ms. Mathiasen noted that Mr. Walter also has some follow-up items that he is managing regarding the Swingbridge's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

East Haddam Village Revitalization Commission – There was no update on this agenda item.

Commercial Infrastructure (Moodus and Norwich Rd.) – There was no update on this agenda item.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Business Association is not meeting in July; their next event is a social get-together in August.

Farmers' Market Sub-Committee – Ms. Rubenbauer reported that the Farmers' Market is going very well and that the number of participating vendors has increased each week. Ms. Mathiasen advised that she plans to do another press release on the Farmers' Market and distributed informational postcards about the Market. She also noted that she will distribute "Shop Locally" cards to the East Haddam vendors to display on their tables.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. RUCKER, TO REIMBURSE MS. MATHIASEN \$62.20 FOR THE COST OF PRINTING THE FARMERS' MARKET POSTCARDS. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Swingbridge 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Sub-Committee

Ms. Mathiasen reported that she and Mr. Walter met with representatives from the Goodspeed, the Haddam Historical Society and the East Haddam Historic District to begin discussions about the Swingbridge Celebration. She noted that Mr. Hughes, who is doing his Eagle Scout project on the technology of the bridge, was also at the meeting. She advised that the group discussed their goals for the celebration and she reviewed the list of potential activities planned.

Ms. Mathiasen stated that the Goodspeed's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary coincides with the Swingbridge's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and noted that they would like to plan some tie-in events.

She reported that Mr. Walter will follow-up with the State to determine how long the Swingbridge can be closed to

accommodate some of the events. She stated that she hopes to have the celebration itinerary finalized by Fall to meet the State's print deadline.

**Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:**

Tourism Brochures – Ms. Mathiasen reviewed the distribution of the Tourism brochures and requested volunteers to drop off the remaining packets.

Ballek's Farm 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (7/7&82) wrap-up – Ms. Mathiasen advised that the Ballek Farm 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration went well. She also reported that Anita Ballek was honored at the July 11<sup>th</sup> Chamber of Commerce breakfast in Cromwell with a Proclamation signed by the Governor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Fiscal Year End Financial Report – Ms. Mathiasen reported that EDC had spent approximately \$4700.00 of its 2011-12 budget, leaving a balance of approximately \$1000.00. She noted that the largest balances are in the Public Relations/Advertising (\$500.00) and Postage (\$200.00) lines. She advised that she had purchased \$93.08 of office supplies out of her own funds, including a carton of printer paper, printer ink, a business card stand, and a brochure display.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO REIMBURSE MS. MATHIASE \$93.08 FOR THE OFFICE SUPPLIES SHE HAD PURCHASED FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

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 Ray of Light Farm for the donation they received from the proceeds of the Chowder Festival.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler  
Recording Secretary