

Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 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: B. Buongiorno

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

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2012. MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN 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. There was a general discussion about the status of the Sunrise Resort. Ms. Mathiasen suggested asking the Town and CT DOT to schedule a follow-up Public Hearing on the Succor Bridge work and Route 82 closure planned for next summer. She also suggested a notice be sent to all East Haddam businesses regarding the planned work.

In response to a question from Ms. Rubenbauer, the Commissioners stated they were not aware of any change in the status of the restaurant on Town Street.

First Selectman Update – Mr. Walter was not in attendance to provide his update. Mr. Odell reported that the East Haddam Revitalization Committee had met on September 27th but he had no additional information on the meeting.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Business Association's next meeting is October 17th and they will entertain a change to their by-laws to open up membership to businesses from outside of East Haddam. She noted that Mr. Simmons will be the guest speaker at the meeting.

Farmers' Market Sub-Committee – Ms. Rubenbauer reported that the Farmer's Market will continue through the end of October with alternate (3-6pm) hours. Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Kids' Day event attracted many families to the Market.

Swing Bridge 100th Anniversary Planning Sub-Committee

Ms. Mathiasen reported that she met with Mr. Walter and representatives from the Goodspeed and the Historical Society to discuss plans for the Swing Bridge's 100th Anniversary event. The commemoration will take place on Saturday, June 15, 2013, from approximately 9am-noon. She stated that Mr. Walter will invite the Governor to the event and she will coordinate the Fife & Drum participation.

Ray of Light Farm Future Planning Sub-Committee

Mr. Rucker reported that he plans to visit the Ray of Light Farm next week and hopes to meet with Ms. Buongiorno to discuss how EDC can assist her. Mr. Simmons stated that he has been in email contact with Ms. Buongiorno.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Request for IG Zone Use Change – 9/25 Results & Possible New Request – Mr. Casner reported that P&Z approved the zone use request for 374 Town Street (at intersection of Route 82 and 151). Ms. Mathiasen reported that Mr. Janecek, of Sanibel Farm, wrote a letter of support for the zone use change and mentioned to P&Z that he will work to propose a change of use in the IG zone in his area of Town Street. Mr. Simmons agreed to talk with Mr. Janecek about his request.

Partnership Letter for East Haddam State Company Grant for Gillette Castle Summer 2013

Mr. Simmons requested feedback on the draft letter he had emailed the Commissioners expressing EDC's support of the artistic enrichment the East Haddam Stage Company brings to the community through their summer performances at Gillette Castle State Park.

MS. RUBENBAUER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE EAST HADDAM STAGE COMPANY AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Available Job Postings on Municipal Website – Mr. Simmons advised that he had been contacted by an individual who asked if the Town would consider posting available job openings for local businesses on the municipal website. Mr. Odell noted that there are a number of websites available specifically for job postings and he thought job-seekers would use those websites rather than a municipal website. The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Odell and decided to take no action on this item.

Consider Update Letter to East Haddam Businesses – Ms. Mathiasen reported that EDC's last Business Letter went out in February, 2012. She reviewed a list of possible content items for the next letter. She will work with Mr. Simmons who agreed to write a draft for the November meeting.

Eightmile Riverfest October 13th – EDC Presence – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the 3rd Annual Eightmile Riverfest will be held at Devils Hopyard on October 13th. Mr. Parady stated he will attend on behalf of EDC.

Directory Signs, Maintenance & Historic District Recommendations - Mr. Casner stated he would draft a letter for EDC to send to the Board of Selectmen recommending that the "Welcome to Moodus" sign be replaced with a new sign. Mr. Simmons reported that Mr. Ventres did not think the directory signs should be removed. The Commissioners agreed the signs should be updated and Mr. Simmons said he would inspect them and make a recommendation at the next EDC meeting.

Renew EDC Member Term – Mr. Odell stated that Mr. Albuquerque has indicated that he would like to have his term as an EDC Commissioner renewed. Mr. Odell also noted that there is an alternate position open.

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

Mail Received – Ms. Mathiasen circulated a copy of the Hartford Business Journal she had received and noted that the magazine has profiled the Town of East Haddam.

Other Items Discussed –

Ms. Mathiasen requested feedback on the draft EDC Annual Report she had emailed the Commissioners.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO APPROVE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

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. MATHAISEN, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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