

Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2013

Attending: R. Casner D. Mathiasen; E. Odell; R. Parady; P. Rubenbauer; G. Rucker; F. Weissbach
Absent: J. Albuquerque; P. Simmons (Economic Development Coordinator)
Guests: S. Wheeler

Mr. Odell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2013. MR. ODELL MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. MATHIASEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2013 MEETING AS WRITTEN. MR. CASNER ABSTAINED AND THE VOTE PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Mr. Odell called the Commissioners' attention to Mr. Simmons' report dated May 2, 2013. He reviewed several points of the report, a copy of which is attached to and made part of these minutes.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Casner, Ms. Wheeler advised that the Mr. Simmons had appraised the Board of Selectmen of EDC's recommendation concerning 385 Town Street, LLC's tax incentive application. She stated that the Town's attorney has drafted an agreement and is currently working through several issues with Mr. Simmons so that the agreement can be finalized.

In response to a question from Mr. Weissbach, it was noted that CT DOT work on the Norwich bridges has been postponed until the spring of 2014.

First Selectman Update – There was no update on this agenda item.

East Haddam Business Association – Ms. Mathiasen reported that the Business Association acquired 3 new members from their Business Expo. She also advised that the Association is coordinating some carnival-type events for the Swing Bridge Anniversary celebration.

Farmers' Market Sub-Committee – There was no update on this agenda item. Mr. Odell stated that he will follow-up with the First Selectmen to determine the status of the Committee Charter and membership. Ms. Mathiasen advised that Mr. Savitsky has lined up a number of vendors for this season and EDC will arrange for some publicity for the Farmers' Market.

Swing Bridge 100th Anniversary Planning Sub-Committee - Ms. Mathiasen reviewed the plans for the Swing Bridge 100th Anniversary celebration and reiterated that volunteers will be needed for the day of the event. She requested the Commissioners email her with their availability as well as contacts for community organizations that might be able to help out. She recommended EDC purchase 100 souvenir brochures for distribution to members of the planning committee and other participants and having a number of directional lawn signs made up for the event.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. RUBENBAUER, TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING EXPENDITURES FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S BUDGET FOR THE SWING BRIDGE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: \$275.50 TO PRINT 100 SOUVENIR PROGRAMS AND UP TO \$200.00 FOR DIRECTIONAL LAWN SIGNS . UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

In response to a suggestion made by Ms. Mathiasen, Mr. Weissbach and Mr. Odell agreed to talk with the managers of the Gelston House and LaVita Gustosa restaurants about having a light breakfast available the morning of the celebration.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

Tourism Brochure - Ms. Mathiasen advised that it is time to re-print EDC's tourism brochure. She stated that 4000 brochures were printed last year for a cost of \$1189.00.

MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. WEISSBACH, TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1200.00 FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S BUDGET TO PRINT 4000 TOURISM BROCHURES. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Humanities Grant promotion – There was no new update on this agenda item.

Options for Route 151/82 Directory Sign – Mr. Parady reported that the Selectmen had requested \$10,000.00 be included in this year's budget to repaint Town signs; however, the Board of Finance reduced that amount.

Business Database Update – Mr. Odell confirmed that he updated the email listings.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mail Received – There was no mail discussed at the meeting.

Public Comment/Other – There was no public comment or other items discussed at the meeting.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MS. MATHIASEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. RUCKER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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