

June 6, 2013

To: East Haddam Economic Development Commission
From: Peter Simmons

Subj: Economic Development Progress Report #17 – May 2013

1. Business Development

- a. Town approved participation in C-PACE energy conservation and green energy finance program for commercial properties at the May 8th Town Meeting
- b. Town approved receipt of \$20,000 grant from the State Department of Agriculture under the Farmland Restoration Program for the Harris Farm site at the May 8th Town Meeting.
- c. Working with business owner of 385 Town Street, LLC and Town Attorney in finalizing agreements and exhibits for first Town tax incentive program benefits to assist New England Propeller's expansion to the 385 Town Street site. Planning approval for a July Town Meeting.
- d. Assisting a town business with an application for government contracts (Procurement Technical Assistance Program; "P-TAP") through the South East Connecticut Enterprise Region (SECTer). Also assisting business with applications for financing.
- e. Closing scheduled with Essex Savings Bank and town business for refinancing package; assisted business in "shopping" loan programs during January/February timeframe.
- f. Unsuccessful in attempt to assist Lakeside Dan's Bait Shop on Moodus Reservoir receive local approval for a food trailer on-site. EDC brought in late after Bait Shop purchased and sited the food trailer without Town Land Use approval.
- g. Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC) seeking businesses for their small business financing program. Coordinating with local businesses to take advantage of this opportunity. A bill passed both the house and senate this legislative session expanding the authority of the MCRC to become a regional economic development organization for Middlesex County. The bill is awaiting the Governor's signature, which is likely as it has no fiscal impact.
- h. Bill (SB 203) approved by both house and senate during this session which will exempt commercial solar power installations from local property tax. Installations prior to 10/2013 will need town consent for exemption; installations subsequent to 10/2013 will be automatic. Town Tax Assessor is researching. One business has requested a town exemption. Reviewing with selectman's office.

2. Grant Activity and Contract Coordination Priorities

- a. Town received approval from the CT Humanities Council for the \$2k grant to support performances at Gillette's Castle State Park. Will prepare a business development program for the performances.
- b. \$431,200 STEAP grant for Community Agriculture Center
 - i. Executed and returned the Financial Assistance Proposal to DECD
 - ii. Received the Assistance Agreement (contract) from DECD; will need to schedule a Town Meeting for approval
 - iii. Completed Draft of RFP for Architects; can be advertised once the Assistance Agreement is executed (end of June?)
 - iv. Preparing bid documents for construction contract
- c. \$20,000 CT Dept of Ag Farmland Restoration Fencing Grant
 - i. Completed Contract and Bid Documents

- ii. Invitation to bidders advertised on May 28th with a bid opening June 21st
 - d. \$200,000 STEAP for Old Town Hall/Grange Hall Renovations
 - i. Received approval for Assistance Agreement at May 8th Town Meeting
 - ii. Completed Contract and Bid Documents
 - iii. Invitation to bidders advertised on May 31st with a bid opening June 21st.
- 3. Construction and Design Project Coordination
 - a. Mobility Project: continued to coordinate activities with CONNDOT.
 - i. Final Construction Document set submitted to CONNDOT
 - ii. Spring/Summer 2013 bid (Town Administered with CONNDOT oversight)
 - iii. Negotiating Construction Admin/Inspection services with Fuss & O'Neill and CONNDOT.
 - b. Norwich Road Bridges: Nothing Significant to Report
- 4. Participated in Town Government Day for East Haddam Middle School. Had two Middle School students job shadow for morning of May 8th. Goodspeed Opera House hosted a tour of the back of the house operations; carpentry, metal working, scene design, props shop, and costume shop. Toured town economic development projects.
- 5. Swing Bridge 100-Anniversary Support
 - a. Assisted First Selectman's Office with highway use and bunting application to DOT for the parade
 - b. Business coupons for car show: Seven town businesses expressed interest in participating.