

November 7, 2013

To: East Haddam Economic Development Commission  
From: Peter Simmons

Subj: Economic Development Progress Report #21 – October 2013

1. Business Development

- a. 385 Town Street, LLC and tax incentive program benefits: continued efforts to bring benefit package for NEPS to a closing.
- b. Continued efforts to assist an out-of-town business to relocate its operations into town (name withheld).
- c. Continued to support site selector consultant with town data for a potential new medical center in Town.

2. Business Outreach

- a. Managed a meeting between Town Business and CT Department of Transportation (DOT), Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC) and CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) regarding business interruption assistance for Norwich Road closure. Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 8 at 2 PM at the Grange Hall. About 12 to 16 individuals attended.
  - i. DOT reviewed the Construction Project and Schedule
    1. Elected to use a compressed schedule with the contract and complete both bridges in 6-months rather than 2-years
    2. Contract uses financial incentives and penalties with the contractor to ensure adherence with the schedule
    3. Contractor has started as many construction activities this year to eliminate as many schedule risks as possible; sewer work, stream channel work, etc
    4. Norwich Road will be closed from April 15 to November 15, 2014
    5. DOT will arrange a final evening information meeting around February 2014 in the Town
    6. John DiBiagio, DOT Project Manager, is the point of contact for any questions and concerns. He is located in the "trailer" next door to Eddie's Autobody. He encouraged anyone with questions to contact him or stop by the office.
    7. Town businesses were most concern with impacts due to the road closure, communication of the detour route, and access to businesses in the construction area.
  - ii. Paul Hughes represented MCRC. MCRC has loan funding available to assist impacted businesses. MCRC recently assisted Dock n' Dine in Saybrook recover after storm damage. Good records are key to qualifying
  - iii. Lindy Gold represented DECD. DECD has no specific business interruption assistance. Suggested Federal US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Bureau programs for potential assistance.
  - iv. Both DECD and MCRC encouraged keeping three years of complete records to document any trends. Also advised that records match IRS business filings
- b. Follow up: will collect detour and construction traffic plans from DOT and post to Town Website

3. Grant Activity and Contract Coordination Priorities
  - a. \$431,200 STEAP grant for Community Agriculture Center
    - i. Architectural services RFP finalized and submitted to Selectman's Office for advertisement.
    - ii. Coordinating activities with Town Agriculture Commission
    - iii. Observed Test pit exploration to determine final location of Center Building at the Harris Farm.
  - b. \$20,000 CT Dept of Ag Farmland Restoration Fencing Grant
    - i. Town provided the fence contractor with the notice to proceed. Start date pending. To be completed in 2013.
    - ii. Awaiting conservation plan from the Connecticut River Coastline Conservation District.
4. Other
  - a. Town membership purchased for CERC's SiteFinder Commercial Real Estate System. Began loading commercial properties to the CERC database.