

**Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2011**

Attending: J. Albuquerque R. Casner; M. Gionta; D. Mathiasen; E. Odell, R. Parady, G. Rucker, M. Ziobron (EDC Coordinator)
Absent: P. Rubenbauer, P. Stricker
Guests: W. Vincent (Patch.com); M. Walter

Ms. Mathiasen called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

MR. GIONTA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. CASNER, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2, 2010 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. MR. ALBUQUERQUE, MR. ODELL, MR. PARADY, AND MR. RUCKER ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE. MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

Ms. Mathiasen reviewed the 2011 meeting dates and noted there were no holiday conflicts this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Status Reports:

Economic Development Coordinator – Ms. Ziobron distributed a copy of her report which is included as an attachment to these minutes. She also informed the Commissioners of the following CT DOT projects:

- Project 170-3046 - Repairs to the swing bridge, scheduled for spring of 2011, are being delayed for approximately 1 year.
- Project 60-155 – Repairs on Route 82 in Haddam (at Route 9/exit 7) to take place spring/early summer 2011.

Signage Ordinance – Mr. Casner reported that the suggested revisions to the ordinance have been completed and will be reviewed with Mr. Ventres. He stated that the item is on the Planning & Zoning Commission's agenda for their January 11th meeting and, if approved, the next step is to present them at a Public Hearing. He stated he would distribute copies of the draft to the EDC Commissioners and, in response to a question from Mr. Albuquerque, he confirmed that the requirements for the Moodus district are no more restrictive than they were in the past.

Other Businesses Updates/New Businesses/Events/Tourism:

- January Business Night – Ms. Mathiasen reported that 250 fliers for the January 31st event will go out to businesses early next week.
- Other - Ms. Ziobron advised that the Eagle Train will be discussed at the joint East Haddam/Haddam EDC meeting to follow. She further reported that the Chowder Festival sub-committee will discuss potential dates for this year's event with the Village businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

Mail received – Ms. Mathiasen reported that EDC had received a notification from P&Z that the annual review of the Plan of Conservation and Development will be held on Feb. 22, 7:15pm at the Grange and said she would attend the meeting. She encouraged the other Commissioners to also attend if their schedule allows.

The Commissioners agreed to postpone their budget discussion until after the conclusion of the joint East Haddam/Haddam EDC meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

EDC Budget – due January 10th - Ms. Mathiasen distributed copies of the draft EDC budget and reviewed the budget lines. She noted that she worked on the proposed budget with Ms. Stricker and they agreed that the first priority should be to increase Ms. Ziobron's hours and, failing to do that, to maintain her hours at her current schedule. She noted that the draft budget calls for a 2.7% increase

over last year's budget. The Commissioners accepted Mr. Odell's offer to draft an update to the narrative sections of the budget for finalization by Ms. Mathiasen.

MR. CASNER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. ODELL, TO SUBMIT THE DRAFT BUDGET, AS PRESENTED, TO THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Ms. Mathiasen advised that she and Ms. Ziobron will review EDC's historical documentation and provide pertinent Executive Summaries of surveys, studies, and reports to the new EDC members. She also stated that, at the February meeting, she expects to have written guidelines on EDC Commissioner participation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary