

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
HADDAM YOUTH CENTER
Wednesday, 11 March 2009, at 7:00 PM
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Subject to Change by the Commission**

X	Heather Batzner
X	Joseph Bergin
A	Charles Everett
X	Barbara Fernandez
A	Michael Fortuna, Chairman
X	Peter Gillespie
A	Lori Maggi
X	David Papallo
X	Edward Vynalek
A	Liz West, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Vynalek called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Approved as submitted.

4. Citizens for Clean Groundwater – Diane Stock

Ms. Stock spoke to the Commission in regard to the proposed plan to bring water to Tyler-ville in response to the groundwater contamination – Trichloroethylene (TCE), Methyl tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), and sodium all at a level above EPA action levels. Ms. Stock stated that if individuals have filters and are maintaining them these filters are removing the contaminants from the drinking water. Ms. Stock also stated that there has been poor record maintenance noting that this issue has been known since 1981 and that some residences there is only one well test in the last 25 years. Noted that Chatham Health District has recently conducted a systematic survey (all well tests at the same time).

Ms. Stock stated that she has spoken to Ms. West who has applied for a grant (believes is \$3 million) and that it is her (Stock) understanding that the installation will cost \$4 million (estimated). Ms. Stock stated that the Connecticut Water Co. will need to perform a

feasibility study (approximately \$50,000-\$100,000) and that Ms. West has applied for a grant to assist in covering the costs as well.

Mr. Papallo asked if Chatham Health had finished their study. Ms. Stock stated that Chatham Health has completed their survey (posted on www.citizensforcleangroundwater.com). Ms. Fernandez stated that she hadn't seen the posting, but would recheck.

Ms. Stock stated that she would like citizens to be aware that there are additional options other than piping water in – 1) installation of a water supply well and 2) remediate the contamination. Ms. Stock stated that TCE appears to be along the top of ridge running towards river and requires air to dissipate; the MTBE seems to be along Saybrook Road (also along Bridge Road according to Mr. Papallo); and that sodium is sporadic. Ms. Stock stated that Lisa Wadge has a map showing the various plumes.

Ms. Stock stated that, personally, she would like to see remediation as the contamination will continue to affect wildlife, plants, etc., and that she does not believe that cost benefits of the three options has been considered (no cost analysis). Ms. Stock stated that she's concerned that the grant will be awarded and there will be a short time period in which to decide whether or not to use the funding with no time to review the options. Mr. Papallo asked if the piping of water could be considered a short term fix while the remediation is taking place. Ms. Stock stated that it is her understanding that it will take five years to pipe the water in whereas a fast solution would be the installation of carbon filters on individual wells (DEP provides). Ms. Stock also stated that she would be concerned that remediation would not take place once water was piped in.

Ms. Fernandez stated that she would like to see a statement of problem from the study and all the options available to the town with costs attached to all the options. Ms. Fernandez asked what will take place after the completion of the Chatham Health District's study. Ms. Stock stated that the purpose of the testing is to determine the location of the contamination and where the boundaries are (contaminated vs. non-contaminated). Ms. Stock stated that she does not know who will take on the responsibility of compiling a cost benefit of the options.

Ms. Stock stated that she has spoken to Ms. West in regard to whether or not the town was reviewing the options and was informed no, that the choice to go with Chester was the most economical due to obtaining a state permit for a public well would take years and that remediation has yet to take place. Ms. Stock also stated that Jonathan Goldman, DEP, has been the representative on this matter for years and he has yet to return calls.

Ms. Stock stated that there is funding from the RCRA program to cover the TCE contamination traced to the old Sibley site. Ms. Stock also stated that she had recently heard that the \$600,000 assigned to the Tylerville project for Phase I and further studies by DEP has been lost due to the lack of use over the past four years. Ms. Fernandez stated that the governor has been sweeping everything that hasn't been touched over the past couple of years due to the state budget crisis. Discussion followed in regard to what the funding was for (a study).

Ms. Stock stated that she is unaware about the funding for Higganum Cove and is still trying to obtain that information. Mr. Bergin asked who the information had come from with Ms. Stock stating Ms. Wadge who has spoken to an official at DEP.

Ms. Stock stated that Jelle deBoer, geologist, will be addressing the Land Trust on Saturday, 4/26/2009, who will be making a presentation in regard to this matter.

Ms. Stock stated that she would like people to be aware that there are options, that the options have not been considered, and that the options ought to be considered. Discussion followed in regard to who made the decision regarding the urgency of piping in water, asking the town planner to present the short term solution and other potential options, and funding.

MOTION: Barbara Fernandez made a motion to ask the town planner as part of the grant application to look at all the options for the Tylerville water issue including remediation and public water supply well in addition to piping from Chester and others that occur to the town planner to address the problem both from the short term and long term. Peter Gillespie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

Tabled.

6. Public Comment

7. Old Business

a) Town's Tax Incentive Policy – Revised Draft

Mr. Gillespie stated that on the first page of the modified document, dated 3/10/2009, under Eligibility, subsection a, there appeared to be concern about opening up residential properties to the use of this program. Mr. Gillespie has modified this section and limited it to congregate housing (assisted living, nursing, and convalescent homes). Mr. Gillespie also noted that most of the towns that were looked at regarding this proposal do not allow any residential activity be eligible for these incentives. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gillespie stated that he would be willing to draft a letter to the selectmen for the Commission's review outlining the tax incentive policy proposal.

MOTION: Peter Gillespie made a motion to recommend that the Board of Selectmen consider the draft tax incentive program that the EDC has prepared dated March 10, 2009 for consideration (cover letter from the chairman to be attached). Joe Bergin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Tylerville Strategic Vision/Subcommittee – Update

Mrs. Batzner distributed copies of the minutes from the subcommittee's meeting as submitted by Mrs. Maggi. Ms. Fernandez stated that the minutes indicate a meeting in May. Further discussion tabled.

c) Proposed Potential Sewer Project – Wright-Pierce Study – Higganum Center

Mrs. Batzner distributed copies of the handout that were made available at the February presentation to those members who were not present. The Commission briefly discussed the next step in the process. Further discussion was tabled.

d) 2008-2009 Budget Funding Recommendation – Update

A brief discussion followed in regard to the 2009-2010 budget. Additional information to be obtained upon Mr. Fortuna returns.

8. New Business

a) New EDC Projects/Initiatives/Discussion

Mrs. Batzner read to the Commission a Hartford Courant news article concerning the Grist Mill Country Market – an open house (no date given) to be held prior to their grand opening (to be held on 7/1).

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Peter Gillespie made a motion to adjourn. Barbara Fernandez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 April 2009, 7:00 p.m.