

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Kate Anderson, Secretary
A	Stephen Bayley, Vice Chairman
A	Joe Bergin
A	Dan Dachelet
X	Mike Farina
X	Dave Fleig
X	Brenda Hunter
X	Lori Maggi
X	Cindy McNeil Sola, Chairman
A	Ed Vynalek
X	Lizz Milardo, First Selectman
X	Liz West Glidden, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Sola, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions/corrections to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Old Business

a. Bridge Replacement Project in Higganum Center

Mrs. Sola reported the project is supposed to be done by 1 November 2016 and all the equipment should be removed by 16 October 2016. Mr. Farina asked if there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mrs. Glidden stated no; however, if there's interest in having a ceremony, Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, should be contacted in order for her to contact the Department of Transportation (DOT).

b. POCD Moving Forward

Mrs. Sola reported a baseline report will be given on 3 November 2016 and a public focus meeting will be held on 1 December 2016. Mrs. Glidden reported the POCD needs to be adopted by 24 January 2018; however, the hope is to have a draft by August 2017.

Ms. Hunter asked if this pertained to the Charter. Mrs. Glidden stated no, and explained the difference between the two documents. Mrs. Maggi asked if there was access to the Charter on the town's website. Mrs. Batzner explained how to access the document (click Boards and Commissions; then Board of Selectmen).

c. Grants

Mrs. Sola stated there is nothing new to report at this time. Mrs. Glidden reported she is still waiting to hear back in regard to the Main Street Investment Fund (improvements to Higganum Green). Mrs. Glidden also reported she is waiting for the state to announce the Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization (BAR) Planning Grant as she will apply for it for Higganum Center. Mrs. Maggi asked if the water situation in Tyerville could be considered for these funds. Mrs. Glidden stated the situation in Tyerville is not considered a Brownfield.

Mrs. Sola asked if there are any grants moving forward on the Tyerville water situation. Mrs. Glidden explained that bond monies as well as funding from a Small Town Economic Assistant Program (STEAP) Grant and the Connecticut Water Co. are in place, that another meeting was held during the last week of September concerning this matter, and details still need to be finalized. A brief discussion followed in regard to a public meeting concerning DEEP's findings (The Alternatives Report) - meeting keeps getting moved further out on the calendar.

Mrs. Milardo stated the twelve inch main is needed for water suppression and there's a concern in regard to the usage (how long will water sit). Mrs. Milardo also stated Haddam still has Clean Water Funding coming from the state; and due to state budget and staff cuts, the update on the report is taking longer.

There was a brief discussion in regard to a major hospital being interested in bringing in an urgent care center to town. No details other than this could be given at this time.

d. Budget 2016-2017

Mrs. Sola reported there is \$2,000 budgeted for EDC. Mrs. Sola asked if the Commission can raise money. Mrs. Glidden stated committees/commissions cannot and encouraged the Commission to stay away from fund raising. Mrs. Milardo stated if there are specific things the Commission would like, the Commission needs to provide backup for those items during the budget process.

e. Haddam River Days Update

Mrs. Sola reported the event is moving along and gave an update on who is and is not taking part in the event. Mrs. Sola distributed a copy of the map for the placement of the vendors, location of fireworks, area for hayride, etc., at the Haddam Meadows. Discussion followed in regard to who was on the original River Days Committee and how they set things up; whether or not there can be other activities held hours before the fireworks are set off in the "Limited Access Area" as this is the area where the fireworks are set up (need to ask); setting up on Friday and Saturday; creating a supplies list; when vendors should be asked to close down (crafters pack up at 6:00 p.m. and food vendors stay until the fireworks and leave after); providing firm time frames for Trooper Milardo; and fireworks at 7:30 p.m.

f. Higganum Green

Previously discussed under Grants.

7. New Business

a. Appointment – Brenda Hunter

Mrs. Sola welcomed Ms. Hunter to the Commission.

b. Meet and Greet

Mrs. Sola reported the event will be held on Wednesday, 9 November 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Community Center. Mrs. Sola also reported she has spoken to Ming Chou, owner of Higganum Village Market, and will be meeting with him in regard to the purchase of hors d'oeuvres. Discussion followed in regard to renting high tables, wine glasses, napkins, and square white plates; how the rentals will be funded; providing people with an option of standing and mingling and sitting and conversing; and decorations. Mrs. Sola stated Greg McKenna, Higganum Pharmacy, is willing to head a merchants association.

c. Civic Group Update

Mrs. Sola reported she and Mr. Bayley have discussed having members of the Commission select another commission they may be interested in, ask them to read the minutes of their selected commission, and report back to EDC. Mrs. Maggi stated boards and commissions are not civic groups. Mrs. Sola stated civic groups can be included as well. Mrs. Glidden stated she could report on P&Z. Mrs. Milardo noted that Mrs. Batzner attends almost all of the meetings. Mrs. Milardo stated the new website will be more easily accessible; and asked what EDC would be specifically looking for.

Mr. Farina reported St. Peter's Church – The Knights of Columbus - will be holding an event with some food trucks, antique cars, and some food for a minimal charge in the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Maggi asked if there was a mission statement or guidelines as to what Haddam's Economic Development Commission is, what it's supposed to do, etc. Mrs. Glidden stated there's the Charter. Mrs. Maggi stated from a viewpoint of being on EDC in the past and now rejoining, she sees the Commission going in a different direction than in the past; and if there are guidelines, she would like to see the Commission stay within those guidelines. Ms. Hunter stated a mission statement or guidelines would be helpful. Mrs. Sola stated she would like to bring people into town to see what the town has to offer, to see people talking and wanting to be here more, and to bring businesses into town. Mrs. Milardo stated there needs to be various pieces such as the tourism, infrastructure, grants, and communications subcommittees, to listen to what the business owners want and need.

Mr. Fleig suggested an agenda item for the October meeting could be discussing what the Commission would like to accomplish over the next year or two. Mr. Fleig also stated the Commission needs to be able to articulate how the Commission is going to interact with the business community, especially if asked at the Meet and Greet.

Mrs. Sola reported she had emailed Mike Fortuna to see if he has scheduled any meetings for the Infrastructure subcommittee and received a response indicating there is nothing currently scheduled noting there has been a change of first selectman in East Haddam.

d. Mucket Statues and Spring Unveiling

Mrs. Sola reported Greg McKenna, Higganum Pharmacy, has wanted to do a Mucket Spring Fling and to involve all the merchants and community. Mrs. Sola stated Art Wiknik, who has a patent on the mucket, has been contacted and is willing to allow its use. Discussion followed in regard to the cost of the mucket proto-type as well as individual muckets and Mr. McKenna putting up the funds for the proto-type.

e. Beautification Project

Previously discussed under Grants.

f. Light Poles for Holiday Season

Mrs. Sola stated in the past Mr. Fortuna and Mr. Dachelet took care of this project, but may not this season. Mrs. Milardo stated she has several individuals who are interested in helping with this project. Mrs. Sola asked Mrs. Maggi if there are any light poles in Tyerville that could be decorated. Mrs. Maggi

stated she didn't believe so, but asked if the "Welcome to Haddam" signs at the end of Exit 7 and at the intersection of Bridge Road and Route 154 could be spruced up a bit. Mrs. Sola stated perhaps some greenery, solar Christmas lights, and a large red bow would do the trick.

Mrs. Glidden asked how the solar lights will be paid for as they are expensive. Ms. Hunter stated she just purchased some solar lights and they weren't that expensive. Ms. Hunter will look for the name of the company and provide the information.

Mrs. Sola would like to set a date for when decorating will take place and would like to see as many EDC members as possible assisting with the decorating. Discussion followed in regard to the decorating of the Christmas tree on the Green, the new bridge, and the gazebo.

Mr. Farina asked if the Garden Club has provided any additional detail in regard to a beautification project they had talked to the Commission about. Mrs. Sola stated she thought it would be something to discuss in the spring. Mrs. Glidden stated she had heard from a member that the project had become too complex and interest had waned. Mrs. Glidden suggested waiting to see what DOT will install after the bridge project is complete.

Mrs. Sola reported Jeff Talbot, a Haddam resident, had seen flower boxes on a bridge and his photos were sent to Lorraine Reiss, Garden Club member; and although nice, the question arose who is going to water and maintain the flower boxes.

7. Approval of Minutes

The approval of the 10 August 2016 Regular Meeting and 7 September 2016 Special Meeting minutes was tabled.

8. Rumor Mill

No rumors at this time.

Mrs. Glidden reported Jeff Polke, owner of GCI, a camping equipment company located in Higganum Center, would like to expand his business and is requesting a zone change (Residential to Industrial Park) for 457 Killingworth Road. Public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, 22 September 2016, Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam, 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12 October 2016.