



Town of Haddam
30 Field Park Drive
Haddam, Connecticut 06438
First Selectman: Anthony Bondi

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
HADDAM YOUTH CENTER
WEDNESDAY JULY 12, 2006 AT 7:00 PM
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Subject to Amendment by the Commission**

X	Joseph Bergin
X	Charles Everett
X	Michael Fortuna
A	Peter Gillespie
X	Gregg Lallier
X	David Papallo
X	David Platt, Chairman
A	Edward Vynalek
X	Terrie L. Hevrin, Commissions Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M.

2. ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken.

3. APPROVAL OF CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Agenda was accepted as submitted.

4. APPROVAL OF/CORRECTIONS TO THE MAY 10, 2006

Under Old Business a):

The first sentence will be changed to read:

Commissioner Fortuna reported the crosswalk concrete will not be tinted red but one crosswalk near the school will be painted rather than torn up due to the fact that there is bituminous on top of concrete.

Chairman Platt made the motion to accept the May 10, 2006 minutes as amended. Commissioner Fortuna seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) **Streetscape Project in Higganum Center – Update/Status**

Commissioner Fortuna reported he met with the contractors and agreed on everything to close the project.

Chairman Platt asked if they were going to finish the punch list.

Commissioner Fortuna said they are going to do a final change order with a credit of \$2,450. He said the sidewalk on the green will be left as is. He added the contractors will be sending a letter to the effect that if there is a problem with icing in the winter they will come back and fix the problem. When asked if he believed if there would be a problem and liability he said that he doesn't believe there will be because the drainage does run to the catch basins. He said the contractors however do not dispute the sloping in the area but believe they may make matters worse if they try to fix it. He added that TPA has been out to view the drainage and say it all seems to draining o.k. He said if there is a problem this winter, the walks will be roped off and the contractors will come back in the spring to repair them. He said the contractors are not going to re-do the curvy sidewalks near the bridge going over to the reservoir.

Chairman Platt said when he spoke with the contractors and asked them to fix the sidewalk when it was first done he was told they would be coming back in the next day or so to remedy the problem. That was never done.

Commissioner Fortuna said that John DiCastro (DEP) doesn't want the contractors to touch it. Therefore the contractors will only be cleaning it up to make it look better. Commissioner Fortuna said John DiCastro did say that when road repaving is done then it can be made to look a little better by straightening it.

Commissioner Fortuna reported that everything else will get done. He said there are still issues with the light poles not sitting flush on the concrete and some landscape issues (ie: dead trees and some seeded areas are not growing). He reported he has a letter from the nursery and the landscaper acknowledging the problems. He said between August 15th and September 15th they will be coming back to take care of the problems. He said the money is being held until the problems are fixed. He said there are some misc. items to be taken care of ie: the crosswalk in front of the school, a saw cut to remove some bituminous. He reported that John DiCastro has a punch list of things that he wants done that are not in the contract. He said Heidi has been working with him (Mr. DiCastro) to determine what the town has to do, for example blacking out some crosswalks (which are not on TPA's drawings to black out). He said DiCastro wants a crosswalk at the light in the center to be changed to meet State standards.

Commissioner Everett reported that one of the "don't walk" light bulbs is out.

Commissioner Fortuna reported that under the lights on route 81 now that the yellow line is moved over to where it is supposed to be the loop detector and the yellow line overlap and there is concern that traffic turning onto 81 might trigger the lights. He added that there is a "laundry list" of DOT issues that the town might have to absorb.

Chairman Platt stated that there is \$6,000. for those kinds of issues.

Commissioner Fortuna said he hoped that the \$6,000. could pay for benches. He added it is upsetting concerning the \$954. for street signs and he said he believes that the contractor “owns it”. He said apparently Tony Bondi and Scott Thompson worked something out and now the town may be paying approx. \$1,000 for signs we all ready own.

Commissioner Fortuna said workers would be out on July 14th to fix some of the landscaping problems. He added that the change order and the paper work would go out a few days after that. He said that the only thing that is unresolved right now is how to deal with the light bases. He also added that the contractor is asking for \$6,000. for work they did on pavement in front of Apizza Fresco, even though they were told not to do because the State was going to take care of it.

Commissioner Fortuna said the benches will be installed by High School students who need to get their community service credits. He added concerning the DPWs scope of work they have the tapers for the concrete curbs and he will be contacting Phil Goff (DPW) about the installation.

The Commissioners came up with a list of things the town has to do which included: the tapers, stone, signs, benches and follow up regarding a sidewalk ordinance (that was defeated in public meeting). They also discussed that due to the absence of the trash barrels there is now a litter problem in Higganum Center.

b) Eco-Tourism Site

Commissioner Papallo reported there is some interest in the purchase of the Site.

Commissioner Fortuna reported that First Selectman Bondi said the matter of the deed restriction was close to being resolved.

c) Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD)

There is nothing new to report at this time.

d) Industrial Park/Transfer Station/Town Garage Sub-Committee Report – Status

There is nothing new to report at this time.

e) Proposed Potential Sewer System Project – Higganum Center

Commissioner Papallo asked, concerning the route along the rail tracks, if they are considered an active track.

Chairman Platt said that route is a long-shot and more complicated because the tracks are potentially active and we would have to enter into a complicated agreement with a private entity, Pratt and Whitney, who would then have to become a public utility. He said it is critical that local POCD reflect what is envisioned because that process works into the State

plan. He added there is a process for amending the State plan. He said that perhaps going from non-public sewers to public sewers in town may put the town into a different category that the center may not be designated for.

Chairman Platt suggested more research be done regarding the Saybrook Road route.

f) Higganum Cove

There is nothing new to report at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS TOPICS

a) Any new EDC Projects/Initiatives/discussion

Commissioner Lallier asked if anyone had any information regarding the State of CT taking over management of the Johnson property.

Chairman Platt said there is an effort to possibly sell the Johnson property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Silvio Conte Refuge is a conceptual, linear wildlife refuge which is up and down the CT River corridor. It was conceptual until very recently because it didn't have any land with it. They got their first piece of land (35 acres) in Cromwell and are trying to build a wildlife refuge. He added that for whatever reason there is interest in Washington to get the Johnson property. He said that there is a bill that he believes passed the house of reps that allocated \$2,000,000,000 for that. He said he doesn't know where it stands right now. He added that solves two issues:

- 1) management issues and 2) the town would get some money back.

Commissioner Papallo asked where the money would go.

Chairman Platt suggested to several it should be earmarked for conservation projects, either generally or specifically. He said he would like to see it go toward Higganum Cove. He wasn't sure what the procedure is regarding the allocation of funds. He did say it is a problem getting funds for projects like Higganum Cove.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of the State matching funds for conservation endeavors.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Papallo made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Fortuna.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

*The next meeting of the Economic Development Commission is
August 9, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at the Youth Center*

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie L. Hevrin
Commissions Clerk