



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 MAY 10, 2006 AT 7:00 PM
APPROVED MINUTES
Approved as Amended by the Commission**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:13 P.M.

2. ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken.

3. APPROVAL OF CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Under "Old Business" Higganum Cove is to be added.
The Agenda was accepted as amended.

4. APPROVAL OF/CORRECTIONS TO THE MARCH 8, 2006

Under "Old Business" a) the sentence should be changed to read:

It was reported that all but three street lights on the east side are now powered up and working.

Commissioner Everett made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner Gillespie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) Streetscape Project in Higganum Center – Update/Status

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. Also one of the lights is not working. The credit for tinting

crosswalk cement will be approximately \$4,000.00. He also said there are approximately 60 to 70 things yet to be done. Work was to be completed May 1st. Now the contractors are saying it will be done by Memorial Day.

Chairman Platt said water collects on the blacktop sidewalks at the base of the green therefore they will need to be torn out and re-done. He added some sidewalks (near the reservoir) are not straight and the school crosswalk apron needs to be done.

Commissioner Fortuna said there is not 6 inches of topsoil on the green and a saw-cut to one of the driveways on Route 154 is not yet done. He also commented that all of the street lights have to come down in order to reset the bases. Right now they are too high.

The Commissioners commented that the grass has been disturbed on the green. They discussed putting cones or perhaps snow fencing up to keep people off the grass while it gets established.

b) Eco-Tourism Site

Commissioner Fortuna reported that other than the fact that PACE walked through the Eco-Tourism Center to observe the geothermal heat pumps on site there is nothing new to report.

Chairman Platt said a person is needed to call First Selectman Tony Bondi (and encouraged members of the Commission to do so) in order to track the activities of the Eco-Tourism Site as well as the status of the transfer station, town park and Higganum Reservoir

c) Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD)

Commissioner Gillespie reported there was a disappointingly small crowd (approximately thirty people) in attendance at the public informational event held at the Extension Center on March 30th. He said he hasn't seen a revised plan (based on the comments at the workshop) yet. Since then he said it has been quiet with nothing new to report.

Commissioner Bergan said he would help out on the POCD project.

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

Commissioner Vynalek was asked by Board of Finance Chairman JoAnne Woickelman for a copy of the work regarding the transfer station which was done by the EDC which he gave to her to present to the Sub-Committee.

Chairman Platt voiced concerns that Higganum center had been identified as a possible location for the Transfer Station.

e) Proposed Potential Sewer System Project – Higganum Center

Chairman Platt said he has received the final reports from Wright/Pierce which have no significant changes which he presented to the Commissioners. He said he and Tony Bondi have spoken with Guy Russo and a DEP representative regarding the feasibility of sewer lines along the river (rail road tracks). Bill Hogan, who approves new sewer districts and makes

sure they comply with environmental issues has been contacted and questioned regarding the possibility of Middletown sewer lines coming further south toward Higganum along Route 154. He said he is waiting for feedback from the DEP which he believes will indicate installing sewer lines along route 154 will be a more desirable and economically better route than alongside the train tracks. He added that costs estimates are needed from Wright/Pierce. He added that business owners in the area need to band together to get the sewer or it will not be feasible.

f) New England Maritime/State of Connecticut

Commissioner Vynalek reported that the four acre parcel has been sold by New England Maritime to the State of Connecticut for \$1,860,000.00 and recorded in the Haddam Town Records on the 27th of March.

g) Higganum Cove

Chairman Platt said he went with First Selectman Bondi and DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy to Higganum Center. He said permitting work is proceeding and they wanted Ms. McCarthy to see that the cove fits into the bigger picture of Higganum Center and to understand why is important. They discussed the possibility of a town park and questioned if then the Town would have to open it up to other towns not just Haddam. He added that the ball is in Haddams court regarding the park. The State is waiting for the town to provide them with a survey which the Commission has been told the Town is working on. They discussed drinking water in Higganum Center noting that the Town is testing some wells and finding volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are not too bad, with pesticides in the water being worse.

The Commissioners questioned a DEP official as to why the Town is paying for testing and filters for these wells and that some property transfers and businesses are being directly impacted by the results of the water tests. They noted that the State Department of Transportation Facility is doing a voluntary remediation concerning the water at that facility. They also discussed the need for cohesiveness for Higganum Center and being able to walk through the center and down to the cove to access the river might give the Town that.

6. NEW BUSINESS TOPICS

a) Any new EDC Projects/Initiatives

The Commissioners discussed other activities going on in Town. Such as Senior Housing saying that High Meadow is backed by HUD and therefore is not only for Haddam Residents. Fieldstone Village in Higganum they said is expensive and is attracting buyers from outside of Haddam. They discussed possibility of housing for Haddam seniors only and if the Committee on Aging would be able to access federal and state grants for such projects.

The Commissioners discussed the need for more time and information from Town Staff. Chairman Platt said he would draft a letter to Planning and Zoning Chairman Paul Geraghty regarding this issue.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Everett made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Gillespie.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

*The next meeting of the Economic Development Commission is
June 14, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at the Youth Center*

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie L. Hevrin
Commissions Clerk