

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Kate Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer
X	Stephen Bayley, Vice Chairman
A	Mike Farina
X	Lori Maggi
X	Cindy MacNeil Sola, Chairman
A	Rudy Sturk
X	Lori Tharin
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Sola, chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions/corrections to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Lori Maggi moved to approve the 11 October 2017 minutes as submitted. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Old Business

a. Haunted House with Trunk or Treat Event

Mrs. Sola reported the event was fabulous and there were more cars than last year for Trunk or Treat, the Fire Department was in attendance, numerous people were on the Green listening to the band, and Chuck Cook had additional props throughout. Mrs. Sola stated this was a safe avenue for the younger children and noted that the middle school also held a Trunk or Treat event so there weren't as many older children, but doesn't believe it mattered that the events were held on the same night as it covered two different age groups. Mrs. Sola reported Mr. Cook has already expressed interest in holding the event again next year.

Mrs. Tharin stated as a new member, she felt the event was very good and was surprised at the amount of people. Mrs. Tharin also stated she tried to advertise the event to people she knew and realized there seemed to be multiple Trunk or Treat events going on making it difficult for some people to attend as they needed to attend work related events. Mrs. Tharin suggested trying to find out who may be sponsoring events next year and perhaps coordinating Haddam's event around them. Mrs. Sola stated maybe the Trunk or Treat event should be held on Friday next year.

b. Farmers' Market

Mrs. Sola read an email from Mr. Sturk where he indicates he has spoken to Gail Reynolds, former Farmers' Market manager, and he has gotten a list of all previous vendors and contacted them. Some vendors are not interested in participating due to conflict with other markets in the area also being on a Friday afternoon. From information gathered, it would appear that Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. would work the best as far as what the area holds. Mr. Sturk is waiting for feedback as to whether or not he should move forward with Saturdays.

Mrs. Sola stated Mr. Sturk had asked about holding the market at the Haddam Meadows; however, the problem with holding it there is no money can exchange hands and it's off to the side (not visible). Ms. Anderson asked if the reason why items could be sold during River Days was due to it being grandfathered in with Mrs. Sola responding yes.

Mrs. Sola reported that Mr. Sturk indicated that at its height the market had 17 vendors and dwindled to five at the end and he felt there wasn't enough flow through. Ms. Anderson and Mrs. Sola stated the hours of the original market made it difficult to attend especially when coming home from work. Mr. Bayley asked if Mr. Sturk is thinking of holding the market every Saturday. Mrs. Sola stated at this point he's thinking of holding the market every other or every third Saturday to see how it flies; and if it does well, will slowly bring it closer together. Ms. Anderson stated she thought Mr. Sturk had mentioned having Haddam's market not conflict with the Parmelee Farm market as they do theirs on Saturdays. Mr. Bayley stated he believes the Parmelee Farm market is held at the beginning of the month and during the afternoon. Mr. Bayley also stated he feels that every Saturday would be difficult, noting you don't want to over saturate; but to hold it every third Saturday or second and fourth Saturday, at least for the first year, would be wise. After a brief discussion, the Commission felt Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., would be a good time to hold the market (Mrs. Sola will notify Mr. Sturk).

Mrs. Tharin asked when Mr. Sturk is hoping to start the market. Mrs. Sola hopefully in the spring, but has not pinned down a date at this time.

c. Merchants Association

Mrs. Sola reported she'd like to begin work on this in January. Ms. Anderson stated she had asked that this be placed on the agenda merely for an update. Mrs. Sola stated she believes Greg McKenna, Higginum Pharmacy, who had expressed interest in heading this group, may have pushed it to the side while working on getting his addition constructed; and is unclear if he's still interested in doing this. Mrs. Sola also stated the Commission needs to find a way to move this along. Mrs. Sola stated at one point Gail Powell, former owner of the Hi-Way Package Store, was interested in forming this association as was Ming Chou, the Village Market.

Mrs. Tharin asked for a brief history on this topic. Ms. Anderson explained that the idea was to have a group of local business owners who can have an avenue to speak to one and another as well as the Commission and many voices are bigger and then one. Ms. Anderson also explained there was discussion about a potential conflict of interest for EDC to be involved as EDC is supposed to be working on behalf of the town while also representing the small businesses. It was previously discussed about EDC getting the association off the ground and passing it off to someone to head it.

Mrs. Sola asked Mrs. Maggi if she had any ideas, especially since she's a merchant in town. Mrs. Maggi stated she had offered a few times to work with Mr. McKenna on the association; however, he's been

very business. Mrs. Maggi offered to play a low key role noting she too is very business; and if anyone would like to run with it, she would be happy to help. Mrs. Tharin offered to help, as long as she can become more educated on the matter, as she's worked with most of the business people in town and has a pretty good relationship with most of them.

7. New Business

a. Garlands/Bows and Pick Date to Put Up

Mrs. Sola asked if the Commission would like to adjourn the meeting before checking the garlands and bows. Mrs. Maggi asked what the Commission was intending to do with these items. Mrs. Sola reported the Commission will be plugging all of the garlands in to see that they work and fluff them up and believes all new bows need to be purchased. Mrs. Sola stated she had spoken to Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, briefly about the potential purchase of new bows.

Mrs. Sola stated the Commission also needs to set a date to put the decorations up (need to be done by 12/01/2017) and who will be helping. Mrs. Sola reported in the past, Mike Fortuna and Dan Dachelet, former EDC members, would work together putting the garlands and bows up; however, they no longer will be doing it. Mrs. Sola stated perhaps Public Works or the Fire Department can assist in putting the decorations up. Mrs. Sola also stated she doesn't mind doing the work and would need to speak to Mr. Fortuna about the timing of the lights coming on/off. Mrs. Sola read an email from Mr. Dachelet to the Commission explaining the process of decorating the streetlight poles.

Mr. Bayley suggested the following dates: Saturday, 11/25/2017 or Sunday, 11/26/2017. Mrs. Sola will email the dates to everyone to see which date works best. Ms. Anderson asked if Mr. Dachelet and Mr. Fortuna could be contacted to set up one light to show the rest of the membership how it's done. Mrs. Tharin offered to ask someone with a bucket truck if they would be willing to help with the decorating.

b. Lighting the Center Village

Mrs. Batzner reported that Mr. Farina had indicated that he will be able to decorate the Red Barn Feed Store. Mrs. Sola stated she had told him he could pick up the lights at the Community Center and go through them at his leisure. Mrs. Sola noted HVG had supplied all of the lights for the Village, but since they're disbanding at the end of the year they no longer will be assisting. Mr. Bayley asked if lighting will be something EDC will need to budget for. Mrs. Sola stated probably. Mrs. Sola also stated the Sportsman's Club will be decorating the bridge and may need additional garlands and lights.

c. Miscellaneous

Tony Salomone's Building – Mrs. Sola reported a sale is pending (potential closing date of 12/15/2017). A computer repair company is purchasing the building and is hoping to rent out one half of the building for another business. Mrs. Maggi stated it would be a perfect business for the building. Unclear as to whether or not the Congregational Church will be able to decorate the building this year. Mrs. Sola will notify the Congregational Church about the pending sale. Mrs. Maggi commented on how pretty the windows have looked in the past.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bunny Hall Batzner
Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 13 December 2017.