

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

A	Kate Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer
X	Stephen Bayley, Vice Chairman
A	Joe Bergin
X	Mike Farina
X	Dave Fleig
X	Lori Maggi (6:40 p.m.)
X	Cindy MacNeil Sola, Chairman
A	Susan R. Waide, Economic Development Coordinator
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Sola, chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Amendment: Delete Item #7d. EDC Coordinator Presenting Spreadsheets on Businesses.

MOTION: Steve Bayley moved to approve the 9 August 2017 agenda as amended. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Steve Bayley moved to approve the 14 June 2017 minutes as submitted. Dave Fleig second. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Old Business

a. Mucket - Status

Mrs. Sola reported the company Greg McKenna was going to go with has merged with another company and they only work in bronze and marble. EDC would be looking for a resin composite, something that

can be painted. Mrs. Sola stated she contacted West Hartford (cow statues) and they were made by a company in Switzerland who only does cows; and she has also contacted New London, Glastonbury, and Wethersfield. Mrs. Sola reported she has received the names of two companies and Ms. Anderson has contacted both and is awaiting their responses. Both companies work with a resin composite material, and does the work fairly quickly and relatively inexpensively; however, will not have a full price until Ms. Anderson speaks to them. Mrs. Sola further reported it's unclear whether or not either one of these companies would use the drawings Kim DiMauro had volunteered to draw of the Mucket for the prototype or come up with their own. Ms. Anderson to also check on this.

Main Street Grant – Mrs. Sola reported Ms. Anderson has also contacted Main Street to find out the expiration date of the grant (don't believe it's for a while).

Mr. Bayley stated he had mentioned a couple of months ago about doing a follow-up news release about the fund raiser and to provide additional information about what's happening. Mrs. Sola will follow up with Ms. Anderson in regard to this.

Mr. Farina asked how much money was raised initially. Mr. Bayley stated the June minutes indicated \$2,800 had been raised. Mrs. Sola stated there may be additional donations she's unaware of. Mr. Farina clarified that Main Street will match the funds. Mrs. Sola stated yes, and there's a dead line to raise the funds. Mrs. Sola also reported Greg McKenna was a huge donator to this project. A brief discussion followed in regard to raising additional funding (outright donations; the town providing the balance shortage and paying back the town after additional funds have been raised; and making a presentation to the Board of Finance requesting additional funds).

Upon Mrs. Maggi's arrival, Mrs. Sola provided a quick update of what had been discussed.

b. Fall River Day

Mrs. Sola reported the event will run from 5:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. when fireworks go off on Saturday, 9 September 2017 (Rain date: Sunday, 10 September). Robin Munster has had to do the permit several times; however, the permit has been approved as of today. The only three organizations who can sell anything at the event are the Demo-crats, Republicans, and Lions Club, if they choose to, and they would need to obtain permits from the Health Dept. The hayride, pie tasting contest, and the train are all out for this year as they were not listed on the original first permit and some items that were listed originally have been eliminated. Mrs. Munster spoke to DEEP and when the state budget is approved, there will be a meeting with DEEP to discuss the 2018 event (will contact DEEP, hopefully, late October).

Mrs. Sola reported Larry Maggi will check with the Lions Club to see if there are any volunteers to help direct traffic for parking; and the Essex Steam Train will be supplying vests, lights, and radios for the volunteers.

Mr. Farina asked about set up time and how soon someone can start serving. Mrs. Sola stated people can set up about an hour before, but cannot start serving until 5:00 p.m. (based on the permit).

Mrs. Sola stated volunteers are needed to help clean up after the fireworks. Clean up would take place on Sunday morning. If it rains and the fireworks are on Sunday, clean up would be Monday morning. Mrs. Maggi suggested the high school be contacted in regard to community service hours.

Mr. Farina asked if there were any funds within EDC's budget to purchase a sandwich board sign to place on the Green to notify residents of events. Mrs. Maggi stated the Haddam Lions are working on an electronic sign on the Green. Discussion followed.

Family Fun Night – Friday, 8 September 2017, Higginum Green, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Park and Recreation is sponsoring. Unclear at this time if there's a rain date. Will confirm.

Crafters on the Green – Saturday, 9 September 2017, Higganum Green, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – All local crafters. Food trucks are interested and as long as they have a permit no problem. EDC Tourism Subcommittee approached the organizer of this event.

Original flier to be revamped and hopefully, next year's event will be all weekend long.

c. Haunted House with Trunk or Treat

Mrs. Sola reported Chuck Cook and a buddy came in and measured the Community Center, the back, and the side and they are also going to put up a 20 foot by 30 foot tent outside to add to the festivities. There will be a donation bucket set up with funds going to either the Fuel Bank or the Food Pantry. Mrs. Sola stated Mr. Cook did speak to Youth and Family Services about doing a Trunk or Treat, but they weren't sure they could do it; so he's approaching someone in the PTO. EDC will be only overseeing the event. The event will be two nights Friday and Saturday, 27 October and 28 October, 6:00 p.m. to closing!

Mrs. Maggi asked if Mr. Cook is getting any monetary compensation. Mrs. Sola stated she has recommended he put out a donation jar as he's investing a lot of his own money for this event.

Mrs. Sola asked Mr. Fleig if the Little League would be interested in selling donuts. Mr. Fleig will ask. Mrs. Sola also asked Mrs. Maggi if she would be interested in selling pizza and cannolis. Mrs. Maggi stated it's a difficult time of year, but will check. Discussion followed in regard to closing off Candlewood Hill Road (first selectman to be contacted).

d. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update

Mrs. Sola was unable to attend. Mrs. Batzner reported a draft final document has been compiled; however, there will be a meeting on Wednesday, 23 August 2017, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, to cover any final items. Any comments can be sent to Liz Glidden, Town Planner. Mr. Farina offered to be a liaison.

e. EDC's Responsibilities and Mission Statement

Mrs. Sola reported she read in the minutes there was discussion pertaining to the Charter is being revised and the Commission waiting until the process was complete before moving forward with the mission statement. Mrs. Sola asked the Commission's opinion on this. Mr. Farina stated he thought everything was officially based on the Charter - where the Commission would get their input and authority. Mr. Bayley stated the Charter will be voted on in November. Mrs. Sola asked if everyone was o.k. with beginning to work on this matter again in January. The Commission agreed.

7. New Business

a. Higganum Vision Group (HVG) Dissolving

Mrs. Sola reported HVG will be dissolving as of 31 December 2017. HVG has done as much as they could do with their plan, a lot of visioning sessions which were given to the POCD, and the POCD has actively picked up a lot of what HVG has tried to accomplish.

Mrs. Sola reported there is money left and a Little Free Library, three in total, will be made for Tylerville (in front of the Provision Market), Higganum (in front of the pharmacy and gym), and Haddam Neck (unclear of location). Mrs. Sola stated notification of these little libraries will be made on Facebook. Mrs. Sola also stated the balance of the funds will go to either the Fuel Bank, Food Pantry, or a scholarship.

Mrs. Maggi asked if the owners of the Provision Market have been contacted to get their approval. Mrs. Sola stated Lynne Cooper is taking care of this and Brainerd Library is also involved. Discussion followed.

b. Christmas Lighting & Christmas Event

Mrs. Sola reported this event was a part of HVG and will not be taking place this year. Mrs. Sola also reported last year the middle school craft fair was shifted to the same day as this event bringing attendance numbers down and this will be the case this year as well. Mrs. Sola stated she has emailed all the volunteers that have adopted buildings that this will be HVG's last year and will not be replacing any lights; and it's hoped these volunteers will continue with the event. Mrs. Sola asked if EDC would like to help decorate the Higganum Feed Store and explained the process. Mr. Farina stated he felt this was one of the best events in town as it looks very festive in the Center as well as Tylerville.

Greg McKenna's Holiday Kickoff Event – Mr. Bayley asked if Mr. McKenna will be holding his holiday event since Higganum Fitness is in the open space. Mrs. Sola stated she will ask him. Mr. Farina spoke about holiday walks in various towns.

c. Resignation – Ed Vynalek

Mrs. Sola reported Mr. Vynalek is resigning. Mrs. Batzner reported she did not speak to Mr. Vynalek directly; however, Mrs. Vynalek stated the spirit is willing, but the body isn't cooperating.

Thank you, Ed!

d. EDC Coordinator Press Release

Mr. Bayley asked if the press release ever went out. Mr. Bayley stated the East Haddam budget hadn't passed as of the June meeting and was wondering if the position was cut from their budget. Mrs. Sola stated she hadn't heard anything. Mrs. Maggi stated Susan Waide, EDC Coordinator, has come around to the businesses in Tylerville (provided a letter of introduction, introduced herself, and would be contacting everyone with a survey). Mr. Bayley asked if the survey had been provided. Mrs. Maggi stated no.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Dave Fleig moved to adjourn. Steve Bayley second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

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