

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 10 AUGUST 2016
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

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

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Milardo, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: David Fleig moved to approve the 10 August 2016 agenda as submitted. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Election of Officers

MOTION: Steve Bayley nominated Cindy Sola as chairman. Kate Anderson second. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the vote for chairman, Mrs. Maggi asked about Mr. Bayley having previously expressed interest in being chairman. Mr. Bayley reported that he and Mrs. Sola had discussed the matter and he was fine with Mrs. Sola's nomination as chairman with Mrs. Sola stating she and Mr. Bayley will work well together.

MOTION: Kate Anderson nominated Steve Bayley as vice chairman. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Steve Bayley nominated Kate Anderson as secretary. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the vote, Mrs. Batzner explained the secretary's duties.

Mrs. Milardo turned the meeting over to Mrs. Sola.

6. Old Business

a. Discuss Haddam/East Haddam EDC Subcommittees - Update

Tourism - Mrs. Sola reported permits are required for Eagle Landing and Haddam Meadows. Mrs. Milardo reported Robin Munster is in the process of obtaining those permits and Liz Glidden, Town Planner, has the list of planned events. Mrs. Milardo also reported the fireworks have been approved for Saturday, 1 October, and this will be in place of River Days. Further work required.

Mrs. Sola reported the event will be called Fall Festival in Haddam; and East Haddam will be doing it as well; however, Haddam seems to have more going on. **Eagle Landing** events are scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, 1 October. Essex Steam Train will come up on its normal run to drop off 150-160 people for either a boat ride or lunch. During this time Hunter Pools is willing to donate a water truck to feed the train and Essex Steam Train will provide at least two runs going north and back – children ride free.

Mrs. Sola also reported the following will be part of the event: Connecticut River Candle (handing out samples), Touch-a-Truck, paint a pumpkin, local artist show, displays (Mrs. Maggi asked to speak to Tylerville businesses to see if they would like to display their products), Goodspeed Station (hot dog vendor), Whey Station Food Truck, and Higganum Village Market (will provide free handouts, but EDC must find a helper). Still need to contact Dino's and AJ's.

Haddam Meadow events are scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to dusk on Saturday, 1 October. Mrs. Sola report a craft show with all local Middlesex County crafters is being put together. Apple and pumpkin pie tasting contest, Lions Club – hayrides, hoping Democratic and Republican parties will sell food, Halfinger Farms still needs to be contacted, Essex Steam Train will give free rides to kids on their hi-cart, possibly face painting, and conclude with fireworks.

Mrs. Sola stated a graphic artist in New York has volunteered her time/talent to develop the flier for this event. Mrs. Sola also stated the Essex Steam Train is willing to place fliers on the seats to advise riders what events will take place at the Haddam Meadows.

Mrs. Sola reported she has been approached by Chuck Cook in regard to holding a haunted house event at the Community Center. The Commission briefly discussed other safe Halloween type events such as trunk or treat. Item further discussed later in the meeting under New Business.

Mr. Farina asked if there was any way to have a farmers' market at the fall event. Discussion followed in regard to the transaction of funds not being allowed at Eagle Landing (Mrs. Sola will readdress the matter with CTDEEP) and possible other locations for the farmers' market during this event.

Mrs. Sola reported Essex Steam Train will be offering free trolley rides to people to go back and forth from Haddam to East Haddam. Mr. Farina asked about insurance for the event. Mrs. Milardo is looking into that. Mr. Farina asked if any River Days Committee members would be willing to assist in terms of the fireworks as they're familiar with how the event would be handled. Mrs. Milardo stated the committee had lost three members and will be trying to put a new board together; however, the fireworks were not moved due to the lack of committee members, it was just a coincidence.

Infrastructure and Planning – Mrs. Sola reported she has not spoken to Mr. Fortuna in regard to this subcommittee, but is aware there have been no meetings to date.

Communications – Mr. Bayley reported a meeting has not yet been held as he’s been waiting to hear from Mrs. Glidden in regard to the Facebook page. Discussion followed in regard to which page – the EDC page and TheHaddams page – and the need to collaborate with East Haddam if the page is to be for both towns. Mrs. Sola will reach out to Bob Casner, chairman, East Haddam EDC. Discussion followed in regard to the transition of East Haddam’s first selectman, both towns still being agreeable to work together, and the need to set up another joint meeting between the two commissions. Ms. Anderson spoke in regard to the Facebook Event page and offered to set it up.

Grants – Ms. Anderson reported she and Mrs. Glidden have not met to date.

b. Bridge Replacement Project – Higganum Center

Mrs. Sola reported she does not have an update in regard to specifics with the project only that she has heard the contractor is ahead of schedule. Mrs. Milardo reported they are ahead of schedule, but continues to hear the project will be completed by November.

c. C-PACE – Follow Up

Mrs. Milardo stated this program would help business owners and noted that an energy audit is scheduled for September.

d. Local Bidder Preference – Follow Up

Mrs. Milardo reported there’s a committee working on revising the Charter and currently the town is not bound to pick the low bid. Mrs. Milardo stated if something inexpensive needs to be done, phone calls to three local contractors have been made; otherwise, more expensive work is put out to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) website.

f. Budget – 2016-2017 Approved

There is currently \$2,000 in the 2016-2017 budget.

7. New Business

a. Discuss Proposed Business Expo/Meet and Greet

Mrs. Milardo explained it’s difficult to determine an appropriate time to hold the event; however, it may be best to hold it during the week rather than a weekend. Discussion followed. Mr. Fleig suggested holding the event in November as school would be up and running, Halloween is over, and there would be a month and a half before Christmas. Mrs. Milardo will be heading the event and Mrs. Maggi will assist.

A brief discussion followed in regard to the Pow Wow and Rendezvous that was held at the Haddam Meadows back in the 1980’s-1990’s and a new mixed use development, Village at Mill Pond, in Clinton (look at for potential).

b. Haunted House

Mrs. Sola reported there are quite a bit of props involved in this proposal and feels it’s a great idea to combine this with Trunk or Treat. Mrs. Sola also reported Mr. Cook indicated some of his props are a bit intimidating for the younger kids, but can do a smaller scale haunted house in the garage area of the Community Center for the youngsters and his traditional haunted house in the meeting hall area for older kids. Mrs. Milardo asked if the proposal is volunteer or if money will be taken in. Mrs. Sola stated there will be no money exchanging hands. Mrs. Milardo stated she didn’t see an issue with the event so long as it’s a community event and no money is exchanging hands.

Mrs. Sola suggested closing down Candlewood Hill Road in the same way the road is shut down for Christmas in the Country, then line up cars along the road and parking lot, and walk the children down the sidewalk (if there are enough people) to Higganum Pharmacy. Ms. Anderson asked if the Haddam Elementary School (HES) parking lot could be used. Mrs. Sola didn't see why not, but Route 154 would need to be crossed to attend the haunted house. Mrs. Batzner suggested Valley Bible Church be contacted as they used to hold a trunk or treat event in their parking lot and may still do so. Mrs. Sola will contact Keith Campbell.

Further discussion followed in regard to the proposed Trunk or Treat portion of the event, working with the business owners in town, hours of event, Halloween parade down the sidewalk, date of event – Saturday, 29 October 2016.

c. Streetlight Banners – Mr. Farina asked if there are holiday banners for the streetlight poles. Mrs. Sola stated for Christmas there are lighted garlands with bows that are placed on the poles. This is usually done by Mike Fortuna and Dan Dachelet; however, additional volunteers are welcomed.

d. Christmas in the Country, Saturday, 3 December 2016 - Mrs. Sola explained how the buildings are decorated (by individuals/groups who adopt a building) with donated lighting (additional lighting welcomed) and vendor donations. Mrs. Sola stated the only money spent by participants would be for a raffle ticket (to help pay for the party the following year) and this is optional.

Mrs. Maggi stated a lot of people in Tylerville including herself feel excluded; and that the town is split (either Higganum or Tylerville) and that it shouldn't be that way. Mrs. Maggi also stated a tree lighting event was started last year in Tylerville. Mrs. Maggi stated if EDC is going to adopt a building in Higganum than they should adopt a building in Tylerville. Mrs. Sola stated it's a very good idea and is more than willing to spread the event out. Discussion followed at length with Mrs. Maggi voicing her frustration and noting a good portion of the businesses are located in Tylerville. The Commission agreed that more should be done. Discussion followed in regard to alternating the location of the event or meeting somewhere in the middle; what is required to put this type of event together; possibly coordinating with residents, churches, library, businesses, etc. to light up Route 154 from Higganum to Tylerville. Mr. Fleig stated lighting up Route 154 could be done this year even if it's minimal. Mrs. Maggi stated she thinks the events are great; but as far as funding goes, if town dollars are going to be spent in Higganum they need to be spent in Tylerville. Mrs. Sola stated no town dollars have funded the Christmas in the Country event only Higganum Vision Group (HVG) funding in terms of the buildings. Mrs. Sola did agree years ago EDC funds were used to purchase the garland and bows for the light poles. Mrs. Sola will contact Ed Schwing to change the wording on the advertisement. Mr. Bayley asked if there were any light poles in Tylerville where lighting could go. Mrs. Milardo stated she has volunteers who have inquired about helping with decorations in Tylerville. Mrs. Maggi stated last year the Tylerville businesses paid for the lighting and River Valley provisions paid for the electricity.

Mr. Farina asked if there's funding to purchase natural greens as opposed to artificial. Mrs. Sola stated HVG was looking at purchasing new garlands, lights, and bows for each side of the new bridge. Mrs. Sola suggested walking around Tylerville to see where lighting/decorations could be put up.

Mrs. Milardo briefly discussed community pride such as cleaning up trash along the roadways, decorating for holidays, etc. Mrs. Maggi explained a former Lions Club event – Green Up Day.

Going back to the Halloween event, Mrs. Sola stated volunteers will be needed especially for the Trunk or Treat and potential Halloween parade.

e. Site Walk – Tylerville – Wednesday, 18 August 2016, 6:30 p.m. Meet at Fireworks Hearth and Home, 112 Bridge Road, Haddam.

f. Pedestrian Walkway/Sidewalks - Mrs. Milardo reported that during a meeting on Tuesday, 9 August 2016, the State agreed there is a need for a Swing Bridge pedestrian walkway. Mrs. Milardo stated

Essex Steam Train put in a request to have a cross walk installed in order for pedestrians to go over to Goodspeed Station, but due to the lack of a sidewalk, the State will not sign off on it.

g. Tylerville Tree Lighting – Saturday, 3 December 2016. Tree located in the area of River Valley Provisions.

h. Building North of Dunkin Donuts, Route 154, Higganum – Mr. Bayley asked for an update in regard to this building. Mrs. Milardo reported Liz Glidden, Town Planner, and Gary Vivian, Building Official, met with Mr. Vynalek, owner, in regard to work that needs to be done with some deadlines put in place. Mr. Bayley asked if a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) had been issued with Mrs. Milardo responding no.

i. Higganum Green – Replacement Grant – Mrs. Milardo reported Mrs. Glidden had put in the grant for potential improvements to the Higganum Green area. It appears there may be a decision made by the end of August.

j. Rossi Property – Mr. Bayley asked if there was an update pertaining to the project. Mrs. Milardo reported at the last meeting they were working on funding.

k. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) – Mrs. Milardo reported the kick off of the revision to the POCD took place and there are a lot of good ideas.

l. Jail Project – Mrs. Milardo reported this project is moving along and a report should be available in the near future.

m. Scovil Hoe Building – Mrs. Milardo reported she will be meeting with the State in regard to the building at the end of the month.

n. Tylerville Water – Mrs. Milardo reported a meeting is scheduled to discuss the water situation.

8. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Lori Maggi moved to approve the 8 June 2016 minutes as submitted. Steve Bayley second. Motion approved unanimously.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Steve Bayley moved to adjourn. Kate Anderson second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 7 September 2016.