

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441  
WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2016  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

**ATTENDANCE**

X	Kate Anderson
X	Stephen Bayley
X	Joe Bergin (7:07 p.m.)
A	Dan Dachelet
X	Mike Farina
A	Dave Fleig
X	Mike Fortuna, Chairman (7:06 p.m.)
X	Lori Maggi
X	Cindy McNeil Sola
A	Ed Vynalek
X	Lizz Milardo, First Selectman
X	Liz West Glidden, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Glidden called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**4. Public Comment**

None.

Upon Mr. Fortuna's arrival, Mrs. Glidden turned the meeting over to him.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Discuss Haddam/East Haddam EDC Subcommittees - Update**

Mr. Fortuna distributed a list of members for the various subcommittees.

**Tourism** - Mrs. Sola reported the committee met approximately a week ago to recap the Spring Weekend Event and begin planning the Fall Weekend Event, Saturday and Sunday, 1-2 October. During committee discussion, it appears the Event will revolve around Eagle Landing, the Swing Bridge, and East Haddam with Saturday being the biggest event day. Mrs. Sola reported Bob Casner, East Haddam EDC Chairman, will try to have events scheduled on the Goodspeed property, especially on Saturday. Mrs.

Sola also stated the committee will be meeting again on Tuesday, 21 June 2016, Eagle Landing to further discuss the fall event and to pinpoint people and assign jobs to help run the event.

Mrs. Sola reported she has contacted The Whey Truck, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches, and Mister Softee ice cream to see if they were available for the event. Mrs. Glidden reported there is a food truck who does lobster rolls that comes to the East Haddam Farmers' Market as well as Nora's Cupcake Truck. Mr. Bayley suggested Red Neck Donuts, Ted's Cheeseburger, Shoreline Deli, and a cannoli truck. Mrs. Glidden stated she will obtain contact information from the lobster roll food truck.

Mr. Farina reminded Mrs. Sola that the Fall Event will be taking place during the middle of fair season and some vendors may already be committed to the fairs or at least there will be some competition. Mrs. Sola stated Jeff and Maryan Muthersbaugh are on the Tourism for Connecticut and will advertise the event.

Mrs. Sola also stated there will be a need to reach out to different organizations to see if they would like to participate - Garden Club to hold a bake sale. Mrs. Maggi offered to work with the Lions. Mrs. Sola stated there are considering holding a fall home decorating contest similar to the Christmas decorating contest.

**Infrastructure and Planning** – Mr. Fortuna reported a meeting has not yet been held as the meeting needs to revolve around Sen. Art Linares schedule as he's on the subcommittee. Mr. Fortuna will speak to Bob Casner, Chairman, East Haddam EDC, in regard to this.

**Communications** – Mr. Bayley reported a meeting has not yet been held.

**Grants** – Mr. Fortuna reported once projects are identified, the committee can see what grants are available. Mr. Fortuna also reported state grants are dried up, but hopefully in the long term they will come back.

#### **b. Bridge Replacement Project – Higganum Center**

Mr. Fortuna reported work appears to be going well. Mrs. Glidden reported both lanes will be opened on 1 November 2016 and Arborio will be demobilized by 16 November 2016. Mr. Fortuna stated from all indications from the Arborio employees they are on schedule.

Mrs. Sola asked about a bridge dedication. Mrs. Milardo and Mrs. Glidden responded they knew nothing about a dedication, but Mrs. Milardo will follow up. Mr. Bayley stated the Town of Chester held a bridge dedication and believes the state coordinated the event. Mrs. Sola stated she will speak to Lynne Cooper, Higganum Vision Group (HVG) as that's where she heard about the dedication event. A brief discussion followed in regard to trying to coordinate a dedication.

**(Recording Clerk's Note:** Mr. Bayley emailed the article pertaining to Chester's bridge dedication.)

#### **c. 2016 Bridge Work: Swing Bridge – Update on 12 May 2016 Meeting**

Mr. Fortuna reported the work has begun. Mrs. Glidden reported to date traveling across the bridge has been fine and the principle of the project is electrical as-builts.

#### **d. C-PACE – Follow Up**

Mrs. Milardo reported she has met with C-PACE representatives, selected vendors, submitted paperwork, and is currently awaiting the follow up. Mrs. Milardo stated C-PACE representatives have offered to attend the Farmers' Market (will coordinate with Gail Reynolds, Farmers' Market Coordinator) or any other community events.

#### **e. Local Bidder Preference – Follow Up**

Mrs. Milardo reported this can be done to some degree, but there is some gray area. Mrs. Milardo apologized for not having the paperwork with her and will have it available at the next meeting.

#### **f. Budget – 2016-2017 Approved**

Mr. Fortuna reported the 2015-2016 budget has been maxed out and the 2016-2017 budget - \$2,000 – has been approved. Mrs. Glidden reported part of the justification for the increase in funds was to create a website.

**Website/Facebook Page** - Discussion followed in regard to TheHaddams website (collaboration between Haddam and East Haddam) and the Facebook page (specific to events). Mrs. Glidden asked how the Commission would like to handle the Facebook page – either through the Communications subcommittee or through the Commission, if there is serious consideration towards it.

Later in the meeting discussion returned to this matter with Mr. Fortuna stating there were two different discussions around this matter previously – 1) an EDC Facebook page for Haddam and 2) TheHaddams for East Haddam/Haddam. Mr. Fortuna stated he felt TheHaddams page would make more sense as the town already has enough outlets to get out information. Mrs. Glidden asked if the Commission would like her to look into setting this up. Mr. Fortuna stated Mr. Casner has indicated the East Haddam EDC is agreeable to a joint commissions page; however, it's unclear as to whether it has been discussed in a formal setting.

Ms. Anderson stated the Commission discussed creating a Facebook Event page at the May meeting. Mr. Fortuna reported Dan Dachelet had reserved the rights to the domain for either TheHaddams.com or TheHaddams.org as a website and not a Facebook page. Mrs. Glidden stated she preferred the website as there was more control. Mrs. Maggi stated she liked Ms. Anderson's suggested of an Event page as well. Ms. Anderson explained the Event page the Town of Plainville posted and how it reaches numerous people. Mrs. Glidden stated she liked the simplicity of the Event page and will follow up with Mr. Dachelet in regard to reserved domain site.

#### **g. Main Street Investment Fund Grant**

Mrs. Glidden reported the application has been submitted; and due to lack of state funding, the town will wait to see what comes from it. The grant is for \$500,000 and hopefully will be awarded to help with the Higganum Green Project.

#### **h. Higganum Green**

Mrs. Glidden gave a brief history of a \$500,000 STEAP grant obtained in 2010 for water in Tylerville; however, due to the funds not being used, there was a potential in losing the funds. A letter was written to the State to repurpose the funds for the Higganum Green Project, but due to advancements in the water project, the town will now be drawing down on the STEAP funds for that project. Therefore, the Main Street Investment Fund Grant, as discussed above, was applied for.

### **6. New Business**

#### **a. Reappointment and Resignation – Joe Bergin and Mike Fortuna, respectively.**

Mr. Fortuna reported Mr. Bergin is interested in being reappointed for another three (3) year term and he will be resigning due to lack of time to commit to the Commission. The Commission thanked Mr. Fortuna for all his time. Mr. Fortuna stated he will remain on the Infrastructure/Planning subcommittee as well as the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

Mr. Fortuna stated a new chairman will need to be selected. Election of Officers to be added to the July agenda. If anyone is interested in the position or has questions, contact either Mrs. Glidden or Mrs. Batzner.

## **7. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Kate Anderson moved to approve the 9 March 2016 minutes as submitted. Steve Bayley second. Motion approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** Lori Maggi moved to approve the 13 April 2016 minutes as submitted. Steve Bayley second. Motion approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** Kate Anderson moved to approve the 11 May 2016 minutes as submitted. Cindy Sola second. Motion approved unanimously.

## **8. Announcements**

**Resignation of East Haddam's First Selectman** - Mrs. Glidden reported Mark Walters, First Selectman, East Haddam, has submitted his resignation effective 30 June 2016. Mrs. Glidden doesn't believe it will change TheHaddams, but there will be a special election forthcoming.

**Tylerville Tree Lighting, Second Annual, Saturday, 3 December 2016** – Mrs. Maggi reported the second annual Tylerville Tree Lighting is scheduled for the first weekend in December. Mr. Bayley suggested creating a Facebook Event page for this. All agreed. Mrs. Maggi noted there is a The Shops of Tylerville Facebook page.

## **9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Steve Bayley moved to adjourn. Cindy Sola second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner  
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 13 July 2016.**