

**TOWN OF HADDAM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441
WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2016
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Kate Anderson
X	Stephen Bayley
A	Joe Bergin
A	Dan Dachelet
A	Mike Farina
A	Dave Fleig
X	Mike Fortuna, Chairman
X	Lori Maggi
X	Cindy McNeil Sola
A	Ed Vynalek
X	Liz West Glidden, Town Planner
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fortuna called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as submitted.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Old Business

a. Bridge Replacement Project – Higganum Center

Mr. Fortuna reported that the project is moving along – maintaining channel and installing pilings – and that the project should pick up in late spring/early summer.

Mr. Bayley asked if the plans for the abutments and rails had been reviewed as discussed at the 9 March 2016 meeting. Mr. Fortuna stated that he spoke to a DOT representative who indicated that due to the sidewalk that will be installed, pedestrian rails (standard fall protection item) as opposed to vehicle rails were installed. Mrs. Glidden stated that the town advocated for the installation of the sidewalks, therefore, the initial design plan shows different railings.

b. C-PACE – Follow Up

Mrs. Milardo reported that she will be meeting with a C-PACE representative on Monday, 18 April 2016; and noted that the Energy Committee had been looking at C-PACE as well. Mrs. Milardo also reported that Mrs. Batzner had found that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) had approved the program at their 27 May 2015 meeting; and the C-PACE representative confirmed that she had received the agreement in September 2015.

Mrs. Milardo stated that she would like to hold a business forum as there are a number of programs available for businesses in Middlesex County. Mrs. Milardo also stated that she would like to have C-PACE, Middlesex Revitalization, etc., speak to the business owners. Mr. Fortuna stated that the forum could be set up as a WebEx to allow those who are unable to attend an opportunity to still participate. Mrs. Milardo reported that Storm Lawrence, UCONN student intern, is still working on a business owners survey (Economic Development Project) and that that the business forum would be a good opportunity to introduce the survey.

c. Local Bidder Preference – Follow Up

Mrs. Milardo reported that she will be meeting with Richard Carella, town counsel, to discuss this matter. Mr. Fortuna asked Mrs. Milardo if she had received the examples from other towns that he had sent over with Mrs. Milardo responding yes. A brief discussion followed in regard to larger projects needing to be sent out for bid and setting a cap on smaller projects.

d. Budget

Mr. Fortuna reported that there have been no allocations for the pending budget (Fiscal Year 2016-2017) and that there is a small amount still existing in the current budget (Fiscal Year 2015-2016).

Mrs. Glidden noted that some of the funds for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 have been earmarked for the Spring Weekend Event ad in the Haddam Bulletin; and that additional funds will be needed.

Mr. Fortuna noted that funds will be needed to reimburse Mr. Dachelet who purchased storage containers for the streetscape holiday decorations. Mrs. Glidden asked if Mr. Dachelet had submitted a reimbursement request. Mr. Fortuna stated Mr. Dachelet sent the request to him and that it still needs to be sent to the Finance Dept. Mrs. Glidden asked that it be forwarded to her and she will take care of the matter.

MOTION: Mike Fortuna moved to approve the expenditure of approximately \$30 on Dan Dachelet's reimbursement and the balance on the Spring Weekend Event ad in the Haddam Bulletin. Stephen Bayley second. Motion carried unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Discuss Spring Weekend Event – 30 April and 1 May 2016

Mr. Fortuna and Mrs. Glidden thanked Mrs. Sola for all her work on this project. Mr. Fortuna noted that Deb Mathiasen, East Haddam EDC, has resigned from the commission and Bob Casner, East Haddam EDC, has returned.

Mrs. Glidden reported that she has printed the Spring Weekend fliers (distributed). Mrs. Sola stated all the merchants would like fliers and that fliers will be handed out during the Town Wide Tag Sale. Mrs. Sola noted that the Haddam businesses wanting to participate in this event is outstanding.

Mrs. Maggi asked Mrs. Solal if Ken, from Tony's Package Store, had contacted her. Mrs. Sola stated no, but that an attempt to reach him had been made. Mrs. Maggi reported that she did approach him about the event and provided him with contact information. Mrs. Glidden and Mrs. Sola stated that he can still participate; unfortunately he missed out on being placed on the flier.

Mrs. Maggi asked about East Haddam's participation. Mrs. Sola stated that East Haddam will only be holding the "Taste of East Haddam" at Heritage Park in Moodus from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, 30 April 2016.

A brief discussion followed in regard to the Fall Weekend Event – 1-2 October 2016.

b. Discuss Haddam/East Haddam EDC Subcommittee

Mr. Fortuna distributed copies of the 4 February 2016 joint meeting minutes noting that the markups are suggested edits from Mr. Casner. Mr. Fortuna asked that the Commissioners review the copy and provide comments/corrections directly to Mr. Fortuna within the next few days and he'll forward to East Haddam.

Mr. Fortuna reported that he met with Mr. Casner and a combined list of subcommittee members will be distributed in the near future. If there are any errors or anyone would like to participate on an additional committee, please contact Mr. Fortuna.

Mr. Fortuna stated that he and Mr. Casner agreed, at least for now, to combine the subcommittees of Infrastructure and Planning (due to the amount of overlap). On the infrastructure side – two big items would be bringing water up and under the river and bringing sewer across the river, as well as roadways, high speed internet, etc. Mrs. Maggi asked if there was some place to find the subcommittees. The subcommittees are as follows: Tourism, Infrastructure/Planning, Grants/Funding, and Communications.

Mr. Fortuna reported that he'll be contacting Sen. Art Linares as he would like to be on the Infrastructure/Planning subcommittee. Mr. Fortuna also reported there will need to be a chairman appointed for each subcommittee as well as a liaison for Haddam and East Haddam to communicate back to the town's respective EDCs. Mrs. Maggi asked if any of the subcommittees were in need of additional members. Mr. Fortuna stated that Mr. Casner had indicated that there are three members each from Haddam and East Haddam on Tourism; Infrastructure/Planning – East Haddam four members and Haddam - Mr. Bergin and Mr. Fortuna plus Sen. Linares (a lot to cover; nine members would be o.k.); Communications – Haddam – Mr. Bayley, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Maggi; and Grants/Funding – Ms. Anderson.

Mrs. Milardo stated that perhaps the River COG could assist with the Grants/Funding. Mr. Fortuna stated that they have offered to help with all the subcommittees. Discussion followed in regard to a means of signing up for the subcommittees.

Mr. Fortuna suggested that P&Z and Board of Finance (BOF) be contacted in regard to these subcommittees to see if there's any interest from there. A brief discussion followed with it being noted that Ann Faust would be an asset in terms of grants.

c. Essex Stream Train

Mr. Fortuna reported that a meeting needs to be scheduled in order to understand more fully how the EDC can help the Essex Stream Train to continue the line into Haddam. Mr. Fortuna stated the biggest challenge for them would be scheduling and water. Mrs. Milardo reported that she, Mrs. Glidden, and Mark Walter, First Selectman, East Haddam, meet with representatives of the Essex Stream Train in February. Mrs. Milardo noted that the trains require clean water to operate (cannot use river water) and that they are extending the tracks. Mr. Fortuna stated that they're clearing the tracks up to the Haddam Meadows.

d. EDC Coordinator

Mr. Fortuna reported that East Haddam no longer has their EDC coordinator; and that there has been discussion in regard to a need for a coordinator in Haddam, East Haddam, and Chester. Discussion followed in regard to a regional coordinator for the towns, cost sharing, and the hiring of an individual or

a public relations company. Mr. Fortuna stated there were no preconceived notions about how it might happen, but that it might be a good matter to discuss. Mrs. Milardo asked Mr. Fortuna if he would like her to talk to First Selectwoman Lauren Gister, Chester, and First Selectman Walter. Mr. Fortuna stated yes; and that he believes Ms. Gister brought it up to Mr. Walter at one point.

e. Tylerville Water

Mrs. Milardo reported that she has been in contact with Sen. Linares and that he and Rep. Phil Miller are working hard in regard to the water situation.

f. Lyman Realty Signs, Former Brookes Property, Saybrook Road/Brookes Court, Tylerville

Mrs. Maggi asked about the signs and the purported approval for multi-family/condos on the site. Mrs. Glidden reported that the signs are legal in terms of square footage and people can advertise what they like; however, the property is not approved for multi-family/condos. Mrs. Glidden and Mrs. Milardo noted that there are no engineered plans for the property. Mrs. Glidden reported that she did speak to Lisa Wadge, owner, about the matter. Mr. Fortuna noted that the site is not zoned residential and that it's within the Gateway Zone. Mr. Bayley stated he thinks the "multi-family/condos" may be a means of getting developers to call in regard to the property.

g. Utility Poles

Mrs. Maggi asked about the utility poles lying along Route 154 and that they appear to be smaller than the existing poles. Mrs. Glidden reported that the poles are replacements and that they are smaller. Mr. Fortuna stated that pole replacements have taken place along Route 81.

7. Approval of Minutes

Tabled.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Steve Bayley moved to adjourn. Lori Maggi second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 11 May 2016.