

**TOWN OF HADDAM**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM, CT 06441**  
**WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2019**  
**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**  
*Subject to Approval by the Commission*

**ATTENDANCE**

X	Prem Aithal, Vice Chairman
X	Kate Anderson, Chairman
X	Mike Farina
X	Cindy MacNeil Sola
A	Megan Mularski
A	Lori Tharin
X	Doreen Staskelunas (6:34 p.m.)
X	Courtney Emschwiller Swokla (6:35 p.m.)
A	Robin Munster, EDC Coordinator
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Anderson, chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was recited.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Add: Under New Business – c. River Days and d. Resignation.

**MOTION:** Cindy Sola motioned to approve the 8 May 2019 agenda as amended. Prem Aithal second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Market on the Green**

**a. Discussion with Gail Reynolds, former Higganum Farmers' Market Manager**

Ms. Anderson gave a brief update of Ian Gibson's, Wellstone Farm, April presentation to the Commission. Discussion followed in regard to a potential conflict between Higganum's market on Thursdays and other town's market and Mr. Gibson committing to attend the Market on the Green along with Forest City Farm, Middletown. Mrs. Sola listed other vendors that are interested in the Market. Mr. Aithal will contact the Valentine's Day Market vendors to see if they would be interested in participating.

Gail Reynolds, former Higganum Farmers' Market Master, stated that she was the market master for seven years and provided written information for the Commission's review (Exhibit A, copies on file in the Town Clerk's Office). Mrs. Reynolds informed the Commission there are Agriculture Department rules that vendors have to follow regarding their product. Ms. Anderson asked Mrs. Reynolds if she had an agreement that the vendors had to sign. Mrs. Reynolds stated no.

**Insurance** – Mrs. Reynolds reported that all vendors must have liability insurance as well as product insurance and the Market will need insurance. Noted the potential for tents to fly away and damage a vehicle or fall on someone. Canned goods have to be created in a commercial kitchen. **Grievance**

**Procedure** – Mrs. Reynolds stated she implemented a grievance procedure using the State’s form for vendors to fill out if they had a problem; and that she would do site visits to make sure vendors were growing their own produce. **Newsletter** – Mrs. Reynolds stated she use to send out a weekly newsletter via Mailchimp (free if under 1,000 email addresses) outlining what vendors would be present and chitchat. Tried to mail out on Wednesdays, but sometimes it went out on Thursdays. **Vendors** – Unclear if original core vendors, such as Chet’s Italian Ice and Mariano’s Bake Shop, would come back. Having appropriate vendors and retaining them is a good start. **Entertainment** – On occasion would have some sort of entertainment. **Sponsor** – Higganum Grange sponsored the Farmers’ Market and there are some items (flagging and cones) that are available for use if the Commission would like them. The Commission voiced their appreciation. Mrs. Reynolds noted that the tents are no longer available as they fell apart from use. **Political Organizations** – Mr. Farina asked if political organization were allowable, especially since election season is coming up. Mrs. Reynolds stated yes, as they bring people to the market. **Restrooms** – There are no facilities available. Mrs. Sola thought the Community Center could be opened for the vendors only. **Electrical Power** – Power was available down by the gazebo and she had a number of extension cords. **Vendor Fee** – Mr. Farina asked if the vendors had to pay a fee. Mrs. Reynolds stated yes – \$225 full season, \$12 per market if they did not commit for the season. Mrs. Reynolds also noted that she was paid \$150 per market. Markets were held every Friday from the beginning of June to the end of October. A brief discussion followed in regard to attendance – dropped off once it got colder and darker. **Holiday Markets** – Mrs. Reynolds did not feel these were well attended. **Food Allergies** – Mrs. Reynolds recommended that vendors list ingredients. **Market Hours** – Mrs. Swokla asked Mrs. Reynolds what the hours were when she conducted the market. Mrs. Reynolds stated 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Ms. Anderson asked Mrs. Reynolds her opinion on their chosen time frame – 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Reynolds stated she likes to get started early, but it’s up to the Commission. A brief discussion followed.

## **b. Master Checklist**

Mr. Aithal distributed copies of a draft master checklist (Exhibit B, copy on file in the Town Clerk’s Office) for review by the Commission and Mrs. Reynolds. **Email Addresses** – Mrs. Reynolds stated she had signup sheets at the markets and a form on the farmers’ market website. **Signage** – Mrs. Reynolds reported there were sandwich board signs and they were given to Liz Glidden, former Town Planner. Ms. Anderson stated EDC purchased two signs. Mrs. Reynolds also reported that signs tend to get stolen or are removed by the State. Mrs. Reynolds stated she did have bookmarks people could pick up. **Food Trucks** – Mrs. Reynolds stated there wasn’t sufficient food traffic for them when she held the market. Mr. Farina suggested asking Larry Maggi if he would be interested in bringing in his pizza truck. **Health Dept.** – Mrs. Reynolds stated everyone has to be cleared by the Health Dept. and recommended having a drink vendor or the Commission sell water, especially in the summer. Ms. Anderson stated perhaps the pharmacy will be the drink vendor. **Traffic Safety** – Mr. Farina asked Mrs. Reynolds if the State Police were required for traffic/pedestrian safety. Mrs. Reynolds stated no, as it’s expensive. **Vendor Parking** – Mrs. Reynolds used cones to block off vendor parking and she noted that there is no handicapped parking. **Trash** – Brought her own trash can and bags and would take it home for proper disposal.

The Commission thanked Mrs. Reynolds for attending and sharing the information. Mrs. Reynolds stated if there were any additional questions, to contact her.

Mr. Aithal stated he will send out a revised Master Checklist before the next meeting.

Ms. Anderson reported she had drafted a flier and a small article (copies distributed) to be placed in the newspapers (Haddam Bulletin’s cut off is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month; Haddam Now is a rolling date; Quarterly Events; Killingworth Crier). A brief discussion followed in regard to the time frame (will leave time as previously discussed and see how it works) and the dates selected (will leave as previously discussed) for the market as well as the need for cancellation (only if a thunderstorm and/or high winds).

Ms. Anderson asked if anyone had heard back from Ian Gibson in regard to the vendors. Mr. Aithal will contact him. Mrs. Swokla stated once a confirmed list of vendors is available, she would like to post something regarding each vendor on social media.

## **5. Public Comment**

There was no one from the public in attendance.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

Corrections to the 13 March 2019 minutes – page 5, EDC Coordinator's Report, Commercial Property, Jail, third line – change “piece” to “place” and page 5, EDC Coordinator's Report, Community Calendar, second line – end sentence at “groups” and delete “and not to”.

**MOTION:** Prem Aithal motioned to approve the 13 March 2019 minutes as amended. Doreen Staskelunas second. Motion carried with Mrs. Swokla abstaining.

The Commission tabled the approval of the 13 March 2019 minutes.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Mucket - Update**

Ms. Anderson reported the funding has been released and the 3D file will take up to two weeks to complete. Once the image is approved by the Commission as well as Art Wiknik and Ed Rosado, the original sculpture will take up to four weeks to complete. At that point it will be ready to order. Ms. Anderson will ask the company about the mini sculptures – pricing and size.

Discussion followed in regard to the unveiling of the Mucket with Mr. Aithal naming it “Mucket Madness” and where the sculpture can be displayed – River Days and Haddam Neck Fair. Mrs. Sola stated she would love to see one of the sculptures holding a sign by the Higganum Center bridge in that reads, “Mucket Crossing.” Mrs. Sola also stated that neither Mr. Wiknik nor Mr. Rosado wants the Mucket sold for profit; and if there is a profit, it would need to go back into the town. Ms. Anderson stated Greg McKenna, Higganum Pharmacy, was the originator of the idea to create a sculpture. Mr. Aithal suggested Scot Haney be invited to the unveiling as he had mentioned the Mucket on the weather broadcast.

### **b. POCD Implementation**

There is no update at this time.

## **8. New Business**

### **a. Lower CT River EDC Monthly Meetings**

Ms. Anderson reported Bill Warner, Town Planner, will now be attending these meetings.

### **b. Budget**

Ms. Anderson reported new funding will be available beginning 1 July 2019. Ms. Anderson also reported about the two additional snowflakes for the Center have been ordered as well as snowflakes for Tylerville (town paying for them) and that the lighting on the snowflakes has been switched over to LED; however, the company will make the two snowflakes for the Center with the old lighting so they will all match.

### **c. River Days**

Ms. Anderson reported the Commission needs to select a date for River Days in order for Mrs. Munster to submit the DEEP application. The Commission selected 14 September 2019. A brief discussion followed in regard to the length of the fireworks and possibly taking up donations.

#### **d. Resignation – Lori Maggi**

Ms. Anderson reported that a letter of resignation was received from Lori Maggi. Ms. Anderson and the Commission thanked Mrs. Maggi for her all of her efforts, insight, and support and that she and Larry do a lot for the town. Thank you, Lori!

Ms. Anderson stated if anyone on the Commission knows of someone who may be interested in joining the group, please let her know.

#### **9. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **a. Palm Card**

**Subcommittee members: Mr. Farina and Mrs. Staskelunas**

The Committee members hope to meet during the month of May.

#### **10. Committee Reports**

**Haddam Elementary School (HES) Update** - Ms. Anderson reported the school budget failed. Discussion followed in regard to the number of meetings (BOF, BOE, and EDC) all at the same time. Mrs. Batzner stated there's a BOE meeting scheduled for Thursday, 9 May 2019; although the BOE could have scheduled a meeting for tonight, and that the town's budget meeting was being held tonight. Ms. Anderson stated there was a meeting pertaining to HES on Wednesday, 1 May 2019, and Bill Warner, Town Planner, made a presentation (can be found on the town's website) regarding a community septic system. A vote to purchase HES is scheduled for Tuesday, 4 June 2019, and will possibly include the school budget.

Mr. Farina, Haddam's Gateway Commission representative, reported the Haddam Land Trust has approached the Gateway Commission for funding for enhancements (signage, marking of trails, survey) of Swan Hill.

Mr. Aithal asked about Mr. Warner's presentation outlining the possibility for a community septic system as opposed to sewers. Ms. Anderson stated the Infrastructure and Building Committees will be meeting on Thursday, 9 May 2019, to discuss the matter. Discussion followed in regard to properties identified as potential septic locations – HES, Higganum Green, and two Dublin Hill properties - the Brickyard (too small and residential wells in close proximity) and the Nosal property (Mr. Nosal has no interest) - and the different systems researched.

#### **11. EDC Coordinator's Report**

**TechNet, 310 Saybrook Road** – Ms. Anderson reported Rob Lloyd, owner of TechNet, posted on Facebook looking for a renter and asked for very specific feedback.

#### **12. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Kate Anderson motioned to adjourn. Doreen Staskelunas second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12 June 2019.**