

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday August 12, 2010 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

Minutes

1. Call To Order – Chair Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Members in attendance: Greenblatt, Rosania, Adamian, Hughes, McHugh, Sacks, Amoruso, Ortega and Willard. Also in attendance: Jim Hughes – PZC Liaison, Ellyn Laramie – Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Bridges – Town Manager and Stathis Monousos – Town Council Liaison.
3. Old Business
 - a. Farmer’s Market – Doug Sacks reported that there are now 18 vendors signed up. The need for volunteers was stressed as one of his key people Jenna Delay will soon be leaving the area to return to school. Mr. Sacks also noted that there are suggestions about a winter market and a location at the Episcopal church or at Comstock Ferre. Additional research and meetings are needed. Mr. Sacks suggested that he might seek to pay someone to assist him or seek help from the High School guidance office for volunteers..
 - b. Wethersfield Shops Local - Peter Gillespie reported that over 90 businesses have signed up and reported on a successful Social event. A video is being planned and Shops Local would like to use the Salute To Business for a special Holiday gift certificate drawing or raffle.
 - c. Façade Application – Express Dental – Kupper – 286 Silas Deane Highway - Peter Gillespie reported that Mr. Kupper has requested that due to the delay in closing on this loan that the initial 3 year penalty period is waived and the loan terms are narrowed to 7 years instead of the traditional 10 year time frame. Mr. Gillespie reported that this loan dated back to 2005 and the improvements were completed in 2006. Mr. Gillespie reported that the Finance Committee had met and discussed this request and supported. Mrs. Rosania motioned to approve the modification to the loan terms of 7 years, Mr. Adamian Seconded the motion. Mrs. McHugh questioned whether there are other similar loans in process that might make a similar request. Mr. Gillespie reported that it would be unlikely. All members voted in favor.
4. New Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates – Mr. Gillespie referred to his monthly report.
 - b. Town Calendar and Business Directory – Mr. Gillespie reported that it was time to solicit proposals for next years 2011 Calendar and Guide. It was suggested that a committee meet and work out the details. All members were welcome to participate.
 - c. STEAP Grant Application 2010 – Mr. Gillespie reported that a request for \$500k had been submitted to complete the SDH Streetscape and additional funds for the façade program.
 - d. CornFest Booth – The Shops Local Committee has reserved a booth for the September 18 Cornfest and volunteers will be needed from 10 to 6 that day to man the booth.

- e. Salute To Business 2010 – It was suggested that the event be held on December 8 or 9 at the Country Club. Staff will prepare a list of award winners for the next meeting.
5. Reports
 - a. Town Manager's Report – Mr. Bridges reported that there may be a proposal for the reuse of the CL and P building in the near future.
 - b. Town Council Liaison's Report – Council member Manousos reported that he would like to see the Commission develop an additional funding program to assist tenants with interior improvements. It was suggested that the Finance Committee should meet and work on that type of program for Council consideration.
 - c. Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Jim Hughes was welcomed as the new PZC liaison. Mr. Hughes reported on several initiatives: recent cell tower approvals, apartment building on the Berlin Turnpike, commercial vehicle regulations, parking on the snow shelf and zoning enforcement.
 - d. Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported on the many Tourism initiatives: brochure distribution, Comstock Ferre, Fall event Calendar, Marketing Plan.
 - e. Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – Betty Rosania raised her concerns about the infrequency of the agencies meeting schedules. Mr. Bridges reported that the Agency is working with a particular property owner who has taken a longer time than anticipated to decide about partnering with the Agency. After a brief discussion there was a consensus about the need to support the Agency and send out positive messages about the need to partner with private property owners.
 - f. Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Ellyn Laramie reported on the CornFest plans, Business After Hours and a joint Chamber meeting with West Hartford, South Windsor and Newington.
 - g. Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Mr. Gillespie stated that on August 18 Councillors Manousos and Hurley will be hosting a “Business Friendly” meeting at the Police Department for the public. All members were encouraged to attend. Food and Refreshment to be provided.
6. Chairman's Report
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No additional report made.
Financial Strategies – No additional report made.
8. Minutes- July 2010 Meeting – Tabled.
9. Next Meeting – September 9, 2010
10. Correspondence - None
11. Adjournment – Chair Greenblatt adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Gillespie
Town Planner