

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Special Meeting – Thursday October 21, 2010 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Howard Greenblatt, Betty Standish, Bill Knapp, Joan Hughes, Vincent Fabi, Chris Lyons, Rick Willard, Jay Amoruso, Jeff Bridges – Town Manager, Ellyn Laramie – Chamber of Commerce, Peter Gillespie – Director of Planning and Economic Development and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Farmer’s Market – Peter Gillespie announced that there are two weeks remaining in this season’s market. No additional report was given.
 - b. Wethersfield Shops Local – Peter Gillespie noted that membership has reached to over 100 businesses and that a dedicated committee should be formed to continue supporting the programs efforts.
 - c. Façade Applications – Peter Gillespie reported that no additional applications have been filed and that the program is running out of funding.
4. New Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates – Peter Gillespie noted that the October Available Properties List had been completed and updated the EDIC on the 1000 Silas Deane Highway and 176 Cumberland Avenue.
 - b. Town Calendar and Business Directory – Peter Gillespie discussed the RFP process and noted that the town was going forward with Rare Reminder. He noted that town staff and the chamber are working to update the business directory content and filling ad space. The deadline is November 1st.
 - c. Salute To Business 2010 – A draft list of longevity and welcome awards has been compiled. A brief discussion ensued and a Marketing Sub-Committee meeting was planned to discuss event details. The event will be held on Thursday December 9th at the Wethersfield Country Club.
 - d. 2180 Berlin Turnpike – Collier Brook Apartments – Premier Partners – Pat Snow presented his proposal to develop the parcel into a 150 unit luxury apartment residential complex consisting of two four-story building and a two-story clubhouse. He noted that the property’s street frontage and proposed project entrance is located in the Town of Newington. A discussion ensued regarding the following:
 - Fire access
 - # of bedrooms in each unit
 - Cost of services
 - Sight lines
 - Potential for disturbance to wetlands
 - Re-zoning the property & the land use process ahead
 - Market studies

Bill Knapp made a motion to support the application as presented. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all voted in favor with Jay Amoruso abstaining.

5. Reports - Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges discussed the following:

- Waiting for election results
- Possible disruption of healthcare services – Anthem & Hartford Hospital
- MDC projected 23% increase

Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie discussed the Fall Event Calendar and the Pita Marketing Study.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Ellyn Laramie reported on the following:

- Coldwell Banker Business After Hours – Oct. 28th
- William Raveis – Nov. 10th
- Holiday on Main – Dec. 2nd

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie noted that his office is in receipt of a Special Permit application for freestanding Panera Bread w/ drive-thru in the Wethersfield Shopping Center.

6. Chairman's Report – Nothing additional to report.

**7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Nothing additional to report.
Financial Strategies – Nothing additional to report.**

8. Minutes- September 2010 Meetings – Bill Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes. Betty Standish seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Howard Greenbaltt abstained.

9. Next Meeting – November 11, 2010

10. Correspondence

11. Adjournment – Bill Knapp made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.