

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Special Meeting – Monday August 11, 2008 – 12:00 Noon
Conference Room 1, Basement, Town Hall
Minutes

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair Betty Rosania.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Members in attendance were: Chair Rosania, Greenblatt, Lyons, Sacks, Knapp and Hughes.

Members absent – Mullen, Rizzio, Homicki, Adamian, Monroe, Silver.

Additionally, Town Manager Therrien and Town Planner Gillespie were in attendance.

Town Manager Therrien reported that interviews are underway to fill 3 vacancies on the Commission.

3. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – Mr. Gillespie distributed a power point summary of the status to date. Mr. Gillespie reported that the Finance Subcommittee was taking the lead on this project and will start to include the specific recommendations to include in the plan.
- b. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Town Manager Therrien reported that lighting and fencing was being installed and the project was taking shape. Mr. Sacks suggested that a ribbon cutting should be scheduled to celebrate the project.

Town Manager Therrien reported that Hartford is working on a streetscape plan for Wethersfield Avenue and a September 18 meeting is planned to present the plans.

- c. Preserve America Master Plan – Mr. Gillespie reported that the Plan will be presented to Council on August 18.
- d. Horse and Carriage Rides - Mr. Gillespie reported that a meeting had been held with stakeholders from Old Wethersfield and a schedule of rides had been prepared for September and October and again during December. Advertising is planned and a flyer will be prepared.
- e. 1260 Silas Deane Highway – Status Report – Mr. Gillespie reported that the PZC had approved the project and DEP/Army Corps also appeared satisfied with the revised plans.
- f. Comstock Ferre – 263 Main Street – Status Report – Town Manager Therrien noted that a new developer may have an interest in the property.

4. New Business

- a. Keiler Status – Mr. Gillespie reported that he had met with Keiler representatives and agreed that they would continue the relationship with the Town on an as needed basis. Mr. Gillespie was asked to distribute a copy of their report for all members.

- b. Breakfast Meetings – Town Manager Therrien stated that the Energy Committee was planning to hold an Energy Summit in Town in November. It was decided that the Marketing Committee needed to discuss subjects for a breakfast meeting in the near future.
- c. Business Visitation Program and Shop Local – It was determined that the Marketing Subcommittee needed to meet to discuss next steps on these initiatives.
- d. Silas Deane Highway Mixed Use Overlay Zone – Mr. Gillespie reported that the draft regulations will be discussed at the next PZC meeting in September.
- e. Redevelopment Forum – Mr. Gillespie reported that the Forum has been rescheduled to November 15 at the Silas Deane Middle School and guest speakers were being invited.
- f. Election of Officers – 2008/2009 – Chair Rosania stated that due to family considerations it is increasingly difficult for her attendance at meetings and events and that another member should consider taking on the Chairmanship of the Commission. Mr. Knapp motioned to nominate Mr. Greenblatt as the Chair of the EDIC for 2008/2009, Ms. Hughes seconded the nomination. Mr. Knapp motioned to nominate Mr. Lyons as Vice Chair of the Commission, there being no other nominations Ms. Hughes called for a vote which showed all members present in favor.

Mr. Greenblatt thanked Mrs. Rosania for her years of leadership as the EDIC Chair and the many accomplishments that have occurred under her leadership.

- g. Gateway and Wayfinding Signage Program – Mr. Gillespie noted that he will soon be reconvening this Committee to work with the grant monies received via the Preserve America program.
- h. Salute To Business 2008 – Mr. Lyons will contact the Country Club to determine available dates for the event. Possible dates are December 3, 4, 10 or 11. Mr. Gillespie will outline the suggested award winners and program at the next EDIC meeting.
- j. Façade Improvement Program – Mr. Gillespie reported on the status of the following:
 - Linda Pinn – Main Street, closing recently held for approximately \$7,000
 - Wolcott Hill Rd. – Closing to be held shortly
 - 912 Silas Deane Highway – Nearing completion possible Fall closing
 - Pelton's – Mr. Gillespie will contact for a status report.
 - Additional \$200,000 will be added to account through 3rd STEAP grant, meeting was held with Shopkeepers to advertise the program
 - 1 application pending for Silas Deane Highway property, waiting for additional information.
 - Mr. Sacks suggested that signage be placed at 912 Silas Deane Highway to advertise the program.

4. Reports –

- a. Town Manager's Report – Ms. Therrien reported on the following
 - September 11 dedication at the Community Center.
 - Town Hall nearing completion and anticipated move date in early September.
 - February Referendum on schools is being discussed.
 - Consultant search for new Town Manager is underway
 - Town Council has been meeting to discuss Core Services.

- b. Town Council Liaison's Report – No one present
 - c. Planning & Zoning Commission Liason's Report – Mr. Knecht was not present.
 - d. Tourism Commission Liason's Report – Mr. Gillespie reported that a good meeting was held with the representatives of the various stakeholders in Old Wethersfield to exchange information. Future meetings are planned.
6. Chairman's Report – Mr. Sacks reported that Jenna Delay continues to work to get a Farmers Market here in Town.
 8. Minutes- Approval of July 2008 meeting minutes – No meeting held in July, June minutes to be distributed for approval at September meeting.
 9. Next Meeting – September 11, 2008
 10. Correspondence - None
 11. Adjournment – Mr Knapp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:22 pm, Mrs. Rosania seconded the motion and the vote showed all members in favor.

cc: Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk