

Town of Wethersfield
Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday October 11, 2007 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, Town Hall
MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chair Betty Rosania called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Betty Rosania, Tony Homicki, Chris Lyons, Howard Greenblatt, Bill Knapp, Joan Hughes, Kate Mullen and Ken Rizzio.

Members absent: Doug Sacks, Chris Monroe, Brian Silver and Joe Cornelio.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager, Paul Montinieri – Town Council and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Status – Redevelopment Agency – Bond Referendum – Bonnie Therrien reported that the explanatory text has been completed, is currently at the printer’s and will be sent out next week. Ms. Therrien noted that the Redevelopment Agency will hold a special meeting for all residents with questions or concerns about the upcoming referendum to learn about the process.
- b. Status Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Denise Bradley reported that while a contractor has been awarded, the bid is currently being dissected into smaller components to determine their final scope of work.
- c. Website Update Status – Bonnie Therrien reported that the new website was up and running on October 1st. She noted that she has received good feedback from users.
- d. Preserve America – Denise Bradley reported that a draft report has been received and a final public hearing will be set for some time in December.
- e. Horse and Carriage Rides – Status – Bonnie Therrien reported that she had hoped the project would have been established in time to allow for some rides take place in October but noted that the only interested party has not followed through.
- f. Façade Program Promotion and PR – A discussion ensued with regards to the need for signage to be posted on properties indicating that the EDIC. Ken Rizzio noted that a few signs may already exist that could be modified to fit this need.

4. New Business

- a. Greater Hartford Guest Guide 2008 – Denise Bradley reported that a new ad was completed by PITA Communications for \$500.

- b. Communications and Public Relations – Keiler – Bonnie Therrien reported that Keiler has a list of leads for more stories. She noted that a meeting scheduled for October 11th had to be postponed.
- c. Objectives and Strategies 2007/2008 – Denise Bradley reported that the Finance Committee met on October 3rd and discussed reformatting the document into a condensed version. Howard Greenblatt passed around a prototype from Essex as a model and noted the importance of prioritizing goals and establishing new timeframes.
- d. Chamber of Commerce Liaison – Kate Mullen volunteered to be the EDIC Liaison to the Chamber.
- e. Salute to Business – The event will take place on December 12th at the Wethersfield Country Club. Denise Bradley distributed a list of nominees. Chris Lyons noted that he would check with the Country Club to discuss pricing of the event and menu options.
- f. Farmer’s Market – Bonnie Therrien reported that the Town of Berlin has recently started a farmer’s market which has been very successful. Ms. Therrien noted that she would like to aim for a possible spring start for the program.
- g. Business Visitation – Paul Montinieri reported that he, Mayor Adil and Bonnie Therrien recently visited both Patty Cakes and Kyoto Steakhouse. He briefly discussed the feedback received from the business owners and noted that it is likely that no more visitations would take place until after elections.
- h. Façade Applications – Ken Rizzio reported that J. Michaels Tavern at the Standish House had recently applied but noted that the Town Attorney would be looking into the legality of funding exterior improvements of a town owned property. Mr. Rizzio then briefed the EDIC on the status of approved projects currently underway.

5. Reports of the Town Manager -

Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the following:

- The Town Hall will be closed for “Moving Day” on Friday, October 26th.
- Vision will begin property revaluations on November 1st.

Town Council Liaison's Report – Paul Montinieri reported on the following:

- Redevelopment Bond Referendum
- Revaluation

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

Tourism Commission Liaison’s Report – Paul Montinieri reported on the following:

- Craft Fair
- Scarecrows on Main Street

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – No report was given.

6. Chairman's Report – Betty Rosania discussed concern regarding the necessity of cleaning up blighted areas.

7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – There was nothing additional to report.

Financial Strategies – There was nothing additional to report.

8. Minutes- Approval of September 2007 meeting minutes – Chris Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2007 meeting with amendments. Bill Knapp seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

9. Next Meeting – November 8, 2007

10. Correspondence

11. Adjournment – Howard Greenblatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Tony Homicki seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner