

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday January 12, 2012 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Chairman Chris Lyons, Ron Backer, John Adamian, Doug Sacks, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, Vincent Fabi, 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. Farmers’ Market – Doug Sacks reported on the following:
 - Looking to the EDIC for matching funds to apply for a state grant to promote CT grown brands. A brief discussion ensued and Dorcas McHugh made a motion to authorize the use of up to \$2,500 for matching funds. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
 - Paul Montinieri is looking into getting shuttle bus service from Executive Square and/or the Pitkin Community Center.
 - The 2012 Farmers’ Market will begin in late May and run through December, moving indoors in October.
 - Implementing a Credit Card System
 - Expanding the Loyalty Card Program
 - Online Advertising
 - Market Fees
 - Looking to secure “Angel” sponsors
 - b. State of the Town Breakfast – January 20 – Ellyn Laramie noted that Senator Richard Blumenthal confirmed that he would speak at the event. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. in the Banquet Room of the Pitkin Community Center, breakfast will begin at 8:00 a.m.
4. New Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates – Peter Gillespie reported on the following:
 - 176 Cumberland Ave. (NU) – Expecting preliminary plans for the proposed CREC Magnet School shortly.
 - 1000 Silas Deane Hwy. (Weight Watchers) – Town Council authorized the submission of a Brownfields Grant Application.
 - 1178 Silas Deane Hwy. (Fun Zone) – Preliminary plans and traffic study underway.
 - 976 Silas Deane Hwy. (Absolute Mortgage Lenders)
 - 7 Railroad Place
 - b. Town Calendar and Guide
 - c. Shops Local Alliance – Vincent Fabi reported on the following:
 - Planning kick-off meeting

- Website redesign
 - Shops Local tent at the Farmers' Market
 - d. Breakfast Meeting – February – A Marketing Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to discuss this issue.
 - e. Plan of Conservation and Development Meeting – January 31
- 5. Other Business – There was no other business to discuss.
- 6. Reports - Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
 - Wethersfield High School Referendum
 - Wilkus
 - Budget Season
 - Paving Program

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

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the following:

 - Approved WHS Mandatory Referral
 - Reviewing Subdivision Regulations

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh noted that the Commission hasn't met but there is a need to apply for an extension to a grant for the website.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.

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

 - Grand Opening Farmington Bank
 - Business After Hours Jan. 19th at Max Bibo's.
 - State of the Town – Friday, Jan. 20th

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals denied the DiCioccio Bros. application at Lot 4, Elm Street.
- 7. Chairman's Report – No report was given.
- 8. Sub-Committee Reports -
 - Marketing and Communications – No report was given.
 - Financial Strategies – Peter Gillespie noted that he has had contact with a few additional business owners interested in applying.
- 9. Minutes – November 10, 2011 – Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Betty Standish seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

December 8, 2011 – Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Betty Standish seconded the motion and all voted in favor. John Adamian abstained.
- 10. Next Meeting – February 9, 2012

11. Correspondence – There was no additional correspondence.
12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner