

# Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday April 11, 2013 – 12:00 Noon

Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

## MINUTES

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p. m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Howard Greenblatt, Mark Trahan, Betty Rosania, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, John Adamian, Tony Martino, Chris Lyons, Greg Bedula, Doug Sacks, Ron Backer, Melanie Goodin; Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Bridges; Town Manager, Peter Gillespie; Director of Planning and Economic Development, Denise Bradley; Assistant Planner and guest Gioia Zack.
3. Old Business
  - a. Vacant Property Updates – Peter Gillespie reported on the status of the following properties:
    - 176 Cumberland Avenue – Met regarding demolition phase.
    - 1178 Silas Deane Highway – Some potential interest, Steve Neiditz is the new real estate broker.
    - 1000 Silas Deane Highway – Waiting for grant announcement.
  - b. Website – Peter Gillespie reported that the new website had recently gone live and encouraged everyone to check it out. He noted that feedback has been generally positive and that a new GIS mapping component. The Tourism website will be available in the next few weeks.
  - c. Grants
    1. Vibrant Communities Grant – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre – A meeting was held on April 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss preliminary findings.
    2. Main Street Investment Fund Grant – Waiting for April grant announcement.
    3. 2013 STEAP Grant-Waiting on grant announcement.
    4. CT Grown Joint Venture Program-Doug Sacks reported that the Farmers' Market has reapplied and noted that the funding availability for each grant was cut from \$5,000 to \$2,999.
  - d. Farmers' Market – A discussion ensued regarding sending an email blast to Wethersfield businesses indicating that free market space is available to them. Doug Sacks reported that the 2013 season will open on May 16<sup>th</sup>. A meeting will be set up to discuss proposed parking areas.
4. New Business
  - a. Business Visitations – Visitations were completed as follows:
    - LaPila's Home Gallery – Tony Martino
    - D-BAC's Barber & Beauty Shop – Vincent Fabi
    - Beaver Brook Animal Hospital – Doug Sacks
    - Webster Bank – Tony Martino
    - Diana Stutz Design LLC – Greg Bedula
    - Prove It Golf – Chris Lyons
    - Tilted Kilt – Vincent Fabi

Visitation packets were assigned as follows:

- CT Community Care – Jeff Bridges
  - Wethersfield Small Engine Services – Chris Lyons
  - First Niagara Bank – Tony Martino
  - 180° Nutrition – Dorcas McHugh
  - Sofia’s Brick Oven Pizza – Melanie Goodin
  - River Rock Yoga & Wellness Center – Howard Greenblatt
  - The Cove Deli – Tony Martino
  - Crown Colony Construction – Mark Trahan
  - Milagro’s Spanish Restaurant – Doug Sacks
- b. Budget - 2013/2014 – Peter Gillespie discussed the highlights of the proposed budget and a brief discussion ensued regarding proposed program cuts. Betty Rosania made a motion to fund the rental cost associated with the rental of the Solomon Wells for the 2013 Farmers’ Market season. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Doug Sacks abstained. Dorcas McHugh made a motion to sponsor a \$50 trophy at the Chamber of Commerce Car Show on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Grand Openings/Ribbon Cuttings – Pizza Hut Express at 1086 Silas Deane Highway recently opened and Fro-Yo World located in the Wethersfield Shopping Center will be opening in the next few weeks. A discussion ensued regarding possible changes to help better promote business starts.
- d. Chamber of Commerce – Car Show – Melanie Goodin reported on the upcoming event taking place on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Goff Brook Shops from 10:00 a. m. – 2:00 p. m. Dorcas McHugh made a motion to sponsor a \$50 trophy.
- e. Breakfast Meeting – A brief discussion ensued regarding topic ideas. This will be discussed at the Marketing Sub-Committee meeting.
5. Other Business – No other business was reported.
6. Reports            Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
- Town of Wethersfield & Board of Education 2013-2014 Budget
  - Sale of the Wilkus Property
- Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.
- Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie reported that a Public Hearing for the proposed Plan of Conservation & Development was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Tourism Commission Liaison’s Report – Dorcas McHugh reported that the Tourism website is being finalized and that a new design for the Rack Cards has been implemented.
- Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.
- Chamber of Commerce Liaison’s Report – Melanie Goodin reported on the upcoming car show on 4/20 and the annual meeting scheduled for 5/15 at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – No additional report was given.
7. Chairman's Report – Chris Lyons welcomed Melanie Goodin as the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.
8. Sub-Committee Reports -            Marketing and Communications-Nothing additional to report.

Financial Strategies-Nothing additional to report.  
Farmers' Market-Nothing additional to report.

9. Minutes – March 14, 2013 Meeting – John Adamian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Howard Greenblatt seconded and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – May 9, 2013
11. Correspondence
12. Adjournment – Betty Rosania made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner