

Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Special Meeting – Thursday August 22, 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 PM
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) - Chairman Mark Trahan, Vincent Fabi, Melanie Goodin - Chamber of Commerce, Gioia Zack, Betty Rosania, Tony Martino, Dorcas McHugh, Joan Hughes, John Adamian, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning & Economic Development and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie reported on the following:
 - 125 Silas Deane Highway - Family Dollar Open and much of site work complete
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Conversations with owner ongoing
 - 1178 Silas Deane Highway - Negotiations regarding sale ongoing
 - 295 Ridge Road - Potential developer looking for another site
 - 245 Main Street - Residential buyer recieved ZBA approval
 - 249-263 Main Street - Site improvements scheduled to be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission on 9/4.
 - 7 Railroad Place - Potential new buyer for office use.
 - b. Grants
 1. Main Street Investment Fund Grant - Peter Gillespie reported that Wethersfield did not recieve the grant.
 2. 2013 STEAP Grant - Peter Gillespie reported that Wethersfield did not recieve this grant
 3. Heritage Interpretive Trail – HFGP and CT Humanities - \$17,500 grant awarded. Application filed with the CT Humanities in Middletown to fund \$35,000 of the total project cost. Grant required a significant match. The Webb Deane Stevens and the Historical Society have agreed to donate in-kind services.
 4. State Bond Commission - Intersection on Main Street and Church Street inersection improvements.
 - c. Farmer's Market - A meeting needs to be set up to discuss future plans. A farm to table dinner will be taking place in September.
 - d. Revitalization Plan – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre
4. New Business
 - a. Business Visitations - Joan Hughes reported on Wethersfield Monument. In town for two years and is pleased. He also sponsors the Cornfest. Vincent Fabi reported on Maggie's Hair Salon at 334 Silas Deane Highway. Mark Trahan discussed fine tuning the initiative and what we need to do to fix it. Resend previous assignments.

- b. Breakfast Meeting - October
 - c. Town Calendar - 2014
 - d. Façade Improvement Grant Applications - Peter Gillespie reported on the current program income and expenses. He then described two pending applications for the following properties:
 - 283 Main Street - They are proposing improvements to include new windows, doors and repainting. The applicant has not received the required HDC approval for the proposed windows and doors. The finance sub-committee recommended only funding the proposed painting at this time. The finance sub-committee made a motion to fund 50% of the painting. Mark Trahan noted that he is not supportive of funding maintenance painting through the Façade Loan Program. Dorcas McHugh made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee. Betty Rosania seconded the motion. Aye: Rosania, Martino, McHugh, Hughes and Fabi. Nay : Adamian and Trahan.
 - 376 Silas Deane Highway - They are proposing landscaping, gutters, painting, windows, signage, walkways and handicap ramp. Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the application with the stipulation that the funding only be used for exterior improvements and with the approval of the Town Planner. Vincent Fabi seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
5. Other Business - There was no other business to discuss.
6. Reports
- Town Manager's Report - Peter Gillespie reported on the presentation made to Town Council by CL&P regarding tree trimming and the upcoming visit from Wethersfield's sister city Nagayo Japan.
 - Town Council Liaison's Report - No report was given.
 - Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report - Peter Gillespie reported on the following applications:
 - 44 Victory Lane
 - 249-263 Main Street
 - Tourism Commission Liaison's Report - There was no meeting in July. Peter Gillespie reported that they are working on a new Fall Rack Card and ad in Journeys Magazine. There is a Tourism Stakeholder's meeting on August 23 at the Art Academy, 11:00 AM
 - Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report - The group has not met.
 - Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report - Melanie Goodin reported on the planning for the Cornfest event, business visitation/welcome baskets, Holidays on Main and organizing a new monthly networking meeting.
 - Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report - Nothing additional to report.
7. Chairman's Report - Mark Trahan reported on a meeting held between representatives of the EDIC and Chamber of Commerce. Discussions included issues of redundancy including putting together a business directory on the town's website, incorporating the business visitation survey form into something that can be filled out online, doing a better job marketing/advertising local events and businesses. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled for Tuesday.
8. Sub-Committee Reports
- Marketing and Communications - Nothing additional to report.
 - Financial Strategies - Nothing additional to report.

Farmers' Market - A meeting will be set up with Doug Sacks to discuss Market issues.

9. Minutes – July 11, 2013 Meeting - John Adamian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Tony Martino seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – September 12, 2013
11. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.
12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner