

Minutes
Redevelopment Agency
Wednesday, April 16, 2008
5:00 pm - Town Hall
Town Manager's Conference Room

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Lee Kuckro called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
2. **Roll Call/Attendance** - Members in attendance: Lee Kuckro - Chair, Daniel Camilliere - Vice Chair, Joseph Soja, Paul Thompson, and Michael Zaleski. Also in attendance: Martin Walsh, Town Council Liaison; Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; and Denise Bradley, Assistant Town Planner.

Members absent: none.

3. **Public Comments** -

Dr. Ken Sokolowski, 79 Main Street - Mr. Sokolowski said that he appreciates the Agency's redevelopment efforts. He recommended that the Agency pursue a project that is of a manageable size, and that could be well defined for the public. The size is important because this a tight budget year, and the Town is also considering bonding for 2 school renovations. A well defined project will help overcome the public's fear of uncertainty.

4. **Approval of Minutes** - [April 2, 2008](#) - The minutes were not available for review prior to the meeting, so a vote was tabled until the May 7, 2008 meeting.
5. **Public Information Forums** - Mr. Kuckro said that the forum dates have changed. The first forum is scheduled for June 11, 2008. The consensus of Agency discussion was that the second meeting should be held in September, to avoid low attendance due to people vacationing in July and August. The exact date will be finalized after Mr. Gillespie checks the availability of potential speakers. Mr. Thompson said that he felt Mark Waterhouse is the best candidate to be the development speaker in the first forum, since he has previously done economic development work for the Town.

The Agency members reviewed a draft proposal for the content of the forums, prepared by Mr. Thompson. The agenda for the first meeting would be approximately 60 - 90 minutes long and the theme would be "Problem Identification". Four speakers would make short presentations of about 10 minutes each: Chandler Rose, Town Assessor; Mark Waterhouse, Development Consultant; Paul Thompson, Redevelopment Agency; and Tim Tuell, Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce. The remaining time would be for an open question and answer session. The consensus of the discussion was that the agenda was the best combination of presentations, open discussion and time. The theme for second forum would be "Solutions and the Future".

6. **EDIC Strategic Plan Update** - Mr. Kuckro said that Peter Gillespie reported to him that a subcommittee of the Economic Development and Improvement Commission is working on updating the Town's "Economic Development Strategic Plan, December 2001". Copies of the 2001 plan were distributed to the Agency members. Ms. Bradley also distributed copies of a draft table of goals and objectives for the update of the 2001 strategic plan.

Mr. Kuckro asked if the Agency should invite the EDIC to co-sponsor the public forums. The Agency members agreed. Mr. Camilliere motioned to invite EDIC to co-sponsor the public forums, Mr. Zaleski seconded, and the vote showed all members in favor.

7. **Executive Session To Discuss Real Estate Matters** - Mr. Camilliere motioned to go into executive session at 5:32 p.m. to discuss real estate matters. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the vote showed all members in favor. During the executive session, the Agency members discussed real estate matters, and no votes were taken. Mr. Camilliere motioned to come out of the executive session at 6:00 p.m. and return to the regular

agenda, Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the vote showed all members in favor.

8. **Next Meeting Date** - May 7, 2008 at 5:00 pm. (regularly scheduled meeting).
9. **Correspondence** - none.
10. **Discussion** - Mr. Kuckro asked Ms. Therrien if she knew the status of increases in any town budgets in the area in relation to increases in their grand lists, and how they compared to Wethersfield. Ms. Therrien said that Newington has proposed a budget with a 2% tax increase, but their grand list had increased by about \$2.5 million. She said Wethersfield has proposed a very lean budget with a 5% increase, but the grand list increase was almost negligible.
11. **Call to Adjourn** - Mr. Camilliere motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m., Mr. Zaleski seconded the motion, and the vote showed all members in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin T. Sullivan
Agency Recording Secretary