



Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday August 13, 2015 – 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) Mark Trahan - Chairman, Marco, Tony Martino, Dorcas McHugh, Judy Keane, Leslie Civitello - Chamber of Commerce, Dan Silver, Mirella D’Antonio, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning and Economic Development, Jeff Bridges - Town Manager and Lindsay Schmitt – Interim Executive Secretary.

Guests present - Marco Pace - Web Designer and Kapil Taneja.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie discussed the status of the following properties:
 - Jordan Lane – Former nursing home, meeting has been rescheduled with interested party looking to develop.
 - 295 Ridge Road – Has a developer looking to develop into multi-family residential. They will be a top ten tax payer and will go before the Town Council to seek tax incentives. With one and two family units the expected number of children and impact on schools should be minimal.
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway – Discussion about grants.
 - 1178 Silas Deane Highway - Met recently with the property owner, stakeholders and several adjacent property owners.
 - b. Grant Project Status
 1. Heritage Walk – Utilities have been staked out, granite posts are being delivered and the opening is tentatively postponed to late September/early October.
 2. Church/Main Street Intersection – Only one bid, being reviewed by Town Manager and Town Engineer and will go to the Town Council.
 3. STEAP 2014 – 1000 Silas Deane Highway/Façade Funding – final state agreement has been forwarded to 1000 Silas Deane Highway with language for bidding.
4. New Business
 - a. Welcome Wagon - Judy Keane showed the members the finalized items to distribute to businesses. There was discussion of selling at Cornfest and when to reorder.
 - b. Façade Improvement Applications
 1. 770 Silas Deane Highway – Subway – Peter Gillespie reported the project is complete. The original approval was for \$37,281 (50% of total project cost of \$74,563). The Façade Committee is supportive of the addition of \$7,203 for structural work necessary to support façade. Dan silver would like to differentiate this application so as not to set precedence. Tony Martino indicated the structural costs were an unforeseen item only noticed once the building was opened up. Dorcas McHugh and Judy Keane are in support of the additional funds. Mirella D’Antonio made a motion to accept the request for additional funding

pending the amendment of the original application to the total of \$38,727.41. Dorcas McHugh seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. 708 Silas Deane Highway – Wethersfield Diner – Peter Gillespie reported the total project costs are \$300,000 with \$103,831.53 for the outside. The Finance Committee has recommended funding \$19,553.26. Members are not supportive of funding parking lot improvements. Chairman Trahan discussed the removal of parking lot improvements as an option. Judy Keane made a motion to approve the application with the exclusion of parking improvements in the amount not to exceed \$19,553.26. Dorcas McHugh seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

5. Other Business - There was no other business to report.
6. Reports
 - Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
 - Main/Marsh Street intersection bids going to Town Council September 8th.
 - High School is nearing completion and will open on time
 - Ridge Road apartments – Town Council for tax incentives
 - Subdivision off Back Lane moving forward
 - Crack sealing
 - Housing Authority received grants for improvements to Devlin Court
 - Town Council Liaison's Report – Tony Martino reported Town Council approved the Charter Revision and have approved bids for the High School and paving projects.
 - Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Leigh Standish was not present to make a report.
 - Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported Wethersfield was featured in an article in Group Tour Magazine. New rack cards were handed out. There was discussion about use of Trip Advisor and other media to raise community profile. Comstock will be closed for the next six weeks and will reopen under new management.
 - Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Leslie Civitello reported on the following:
 - Business After Hours – Chip's Tuesday, August 18th 5:00 – 7:00 PM
 - Cornfest September 19th
 - Appointments to Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
7. Chairman's Report – Mark Trahan reported on the Farm to Table at the Solomon Wells House scheduled for September 10, 2015.
8. Sub-Committee Reports
 - Marketing and Communications - Nothing additional to report.
 - Financial Strategies - Nothing additional to report.
9. Next Meeting – Thursday, September 10, 2015
10. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.
11. Adjournment - Dorcas MchHugh made a motion to adjourn. Judy Keane seconded the motion and all voted in favor.