

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday March 12, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall
MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Howard Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, John Adamian, Dorcas McHugh, Betty Roasania, Joan Hughes, Betty Standish, Doug Sacks and Chris Lyons.

Members absent: Brian Silver, Rick Willard, Bill Knapp, Ken Rizzio and Chris Monroe.

Also in attendance: Paul Montinieri – Town Council Liaison; Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager; Phil Knecht – Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – 2013 – Peter Gillespie distributes copies for discussion. Betty Rosania noted that it is an underutilized tool and suggested having a seminar for town employees and board/committee members so they all keep up to date about what is going on in town. She went on to commend Peter Gillespie and the committee for their efforts. Peter Gillespie suggested devoting an upcoming meeting to the strategic plan update.
- b. Farmer’s Market – Doug Sacks reported that the insurance issue has been resolved and a list of potential vendors has been compiled. He noted that the farmer’s in town had been contacted and the Harris Farm had expressed interest. Peter Gillespie noted that the proposal would be before the Planning and Zoning Commission at the April 7th meeting.
- c. Façade Improvement Program – Status – Peter Gillespie reported that the state has agreed to let \$200,000 originally earmarked for businesses off of the Silas Deane Highway to be opened to Silas Deane businesses. He noted that the Mila Fabric/New England Patio & Hearth façade renovations have started and that Pelton’s Home Healthcare is in the process of seeking bids. Mr. Gillespie mentioned sending a mail-out targeting businesses on the Berlin Turnpike as no façade loans have been granted in that area.

4. New Business

- a. Budget 2009/2010 – Bonnie Therrien reported that the town is down \$2.7 million in revenues and that with a figure like that, layoffs of core services are likely. The unions and department heads have until Monday to discuss possible furloughs and concessions.
- b. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie asked the EDIC members to continue to follow through on business visitations. He noted that only a handful of completed forms have come back to him.
- c. Tax Incentive Request – 291 Ridge Road LLC – Assisted Living Facility – A brief discussion ensued regarding the continuing negotiation with the applicant’s request. John Adamian motioned to endorse the application and recommend that the Town Council endorse the application and that staff

continue towards successful negotiation and completion. Doug Sacks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

d. Annual Town Calendar/Business Directory – A brief discussion ensued regarding this matter and it was noted that the Town Manager’s Office will handle this item.

5. Reports - Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the following:

- Wilkus Open Space Acquisition
- EDIC resignations
- New Fire Marshal, Anthony Dignoti
- Green Summit meeting March 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Town Council Liaison's Report – Paul Montinieri reported on the following:

- Budget issues from the Town Council’s perspective and making qualitative choices regarding core services.
- Wilkus Open Space Acquisition
- Business Visitations

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht reported on the highlights of the March 3, 2009 meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison’s Report – No report was given.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – John Adamian reported on the highlights of the March 4, 2009 meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison’s Report – No report was given.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the February Monthly Report

6. Chairman's Report – Chairman Greenblatt had nothing additional to report.

7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No report was given.
Financial Strategies – No report was given.

8. Minutes- February Meeting

9. Next Meeting – April 9, 2009

10. Correspondence

a. Monthly Report

11. Adjournment – John Adamian motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Betty Rosania seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

cc: Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk