

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday April 9, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Betty Rosania, Bill Knapp, Joan Hughes, Chris Lyons, Doug Sacks, John Adamian, Betty Standish and Ken Rizzio.

Members absent: Brian Silver, Rick Willard and Dorcas McHugh.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

a. Farmer’s Market – Denise Bradley reported that at their regular meeting held on April 7, 2009, Doug Sacks and Jenna DeLay made a presentation to the Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission. The PZC voted to approve Special Permit Application No. 1656-09-Z for a Farmer's Market as an accessory use at 200 Main Street (Keeney Cultural Center) for a period not to exceed one (1) year. Doug Sacks noted that Windsor just announced that they will be holding their Farmer’s Market on the same days Wethersfield has proposed.

b. Façade Improvement Program – Status – Denise Bradley reported on the highlights of the Façade Loan Status Report dated March 27, 2009. Ms. Bradley then detailed requests made by two loan applicants to modify the previously agreed upon terms. Betty Rosania made a motion to change the terms of the façade loans to increase funding at 614-620 Silas Deane Highway from \$14,900 to \$17,085.40 and to switch to a loan forgiven after a 5 year term at 685 Wolcott Hill Road. Ken Rizzio seconded the motion and all voted in favor. A brief discussion ensued regarding the request to also increase the funding amount at 685 Wolcott Hill Road due to cost over-runs but the EDIC members requested more details.

4. New Business

a. Budget 2009/2010 – Priorities – Denise Bradley reviewed the EDIC and Tourism 2009-2010 Budget Spreadsheet. A brief discussion ensued and Betty Rosania made a motion to contract immediately with the Wethersfield Country Club for 3 breakfast meetings and for the 2009 Salute to Business. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

b. Business Visitation Program – Denise Bradley noted that only a few visitations have been completed and that the business sign-up sheet will be redistributed.

c. Tax Incentive Request – 291 Ridge Road LLC – Assisted Living Facility – Denise Bradley reported that at the March 26, 2009 the Wethersfield Town Council voted to approve the Real Estate Tax Incentive for The Ridge at Wethersfield Phase II – Adult Living Facility for a term of 5 years (2010-2014) at a rate that starts at 65% the 1st year, 60% the 2nd, 55% the 3rd, 30% the 4th, 30% the 5th and returning to 100% full assessment the 6th year throughout the life of the project.

5. Reports -
 - Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the recent EDIC resignations and that 4 interviews to fill the vacancies had been conducted.
 - Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.
 - Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.
 - Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.
 - Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – John Adamian reported on the March 18th meeting.
 - Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – No report was given.
 - Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Denise Bradley reported on the highlights of the March 31, 2009 Monthly Economic Development Report.
6. Chairman's Report – Chairman Greenblatt reported on the highlights of a seminar he attended entitled “*Crash Course Where Planning Meets Economic Development*” with speaker Jim Gibbons.
7. Sub-Committee Reports -
 - Marketing and Communications – There was nothing additional to report.
 - Financial Strategies – There was nothing additional to report.
8. Minutes- March Meeting – John Adamian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Betty Rosania seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – May 14, 2009
10. Correspondence
 - a. Monthly Report
 - b. Budget Report
 - c. Façade Loan Status Report
11. Adjournment – John Adamian made a motion to adjourn at 1:40 p.m. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner