

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Special Meeting – Thursday September 18, 2008 – 12:00 Noon
Conference Room 1, Basement, Town Hall
MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chair Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Doug Sacks, Betty Rosania, Chair Howard Greenblatt, Rick Willard, Dorcas McHugh, Ben Bare and John Adamian.

Members absent: Chris Monroe, Chris Lyons, Brian Silver, Ken Rizzio, Kate Mullen, Bill Knapp and Joan Hughes.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; Paul Montinieri, Town Council; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

- a. Welcome New Commission Members – Howard Greenblatt introduced new Commission members Rick Willard, Ben Bare, Dorcas McHugh and John Adamian.

3. Old Business

- a. Discussion of Role and Responsibilities of Commission Members – Peter Gillespie distributed a list of the expectations of EDIC members.

- b. EDIC Work Plan for 2008/2009 – Peter Gillespie distributed memo entitled *EDIC Work Program 2008/2009* dated September 15, 2008. The memo detailed the EDIC's top and interim priorities as well as existing programs that will continue to be supported and new initiatives.

- c. Strategic Plan Update – Goals, Objectives and Strategies 2008 – 2013 – Howard Greenblatt noted that the strategic plan now in place doesn't reflect current situations and discussed the importance of updating the plan within the next year.

- d. Status Report - Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Ribbon Cutting – Peter Gillespie reported on the progress on the project and noted that there are still punch list items that need to be resolved.

- e. Preserve America Master Plan – Bonnie Therrien reported that the Council adopted the plan last month and noted that implementation assignments will be discussed further at Committee.

- f. Horse and Carriage Rides – Peter Gillespie noted that the rides would run on Saturdays and Sundays in September and October then again for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years holidays. The rides can be picked up in front of the Keeney and cost \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

4. New Business

- a. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie noted that the purpose of this program is to reach out to the local business community and let them know that we value them and to identify problems. Mr. Gillespie also discussed the importance of establishing a database for ease in communication. He said that he hoped everyone would participate and a sign up sheet was distributed.
- b. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie reported that the Marketing Subcommittee would be discussing this issue and would report back on it.
- c. Silas Deane Highway Mixed Use Overlay Zone – Peter Gillespie reported that this item was preliminarily reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and that a full application would be made after CRCOG notification.
- d. Redevelopment Forum – October 15 – Peter Gillespie noted that the forum will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Silas Deane Middle School Auditorium.
- e. Salute To Business 2008 – Peter Gillespie noted that the event will be held December 3rd at the Wethersfield Country Club. He then distributed a list of potential award nominees.
- f. Façade Improvement Program – Peter Gillespie gave the EDIC a brief summary on the number projects and their current progress.

5. Reports -

Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the following items:

- The Town Hall will be closed for the move on October 2nd & 3rd
- 2nd round revaluation notices to go out in November
- Upcoming Hammner School & WHS referendum
- Town Council approval of a consultant group for the Town Manager search

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

- Hammner School & WHS referendum
- Getting feedback to Bonnie Therrien and Howard Greenblatt to forward onto search consultants.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – The Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison was not present.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh volunteered to serve as the new Tourism Commission Liaison.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – Peter Gillespie reported that the most recent meeting focused on the upcoming forum.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – There was nothing additional to report.

6. Chairman's Report – Howard Greenblatt noted the Green Summit to be held November 8th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Wethersfield High School.
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications
Financial Strategies
8. Minutes- Approval of June and August 2008 meeting minutes – There was not the quorum needed to approve the minutes.
9. Next Meeting – October 9, 2008
10. Correspondence
11. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner

cc: Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk