

Town of Wethersfield
Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday July 12, 2007 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, Town Hall
MINUTES

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

Members in attendance: Chair Betty Rosania, Ken Rizzio, Howard Greenblatt, Bill Knapp, Doug Sacks, Joan Hughes and Tom Dean.

Members absent: Joe Cornelio, Tony Homicki, Chris Monroe, Frank Frago, Chris Lyons and Brian Silver.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager, Phil Knecht – Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison Peter Gillespie – Director of Planning and Economic Development and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Status – Redevelopment Agency – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the July 6, 2007 Special Meeting.

- b. Status Church Street/SDH Streetscape Project – Bonnie Therrien reported that the project was put out to bid and no bids were received. She noted that the Town Engineer would be consulting with DeCarlo & Doll to simplify the bid.

- c. Website Update Status – Peter Gillespie reported that a new round of updates was received and is almost ready to be put online.

- d. Metro Hartford Alliance Membership – A brief discussion ensued and Bill Knapp made a motion to not renew membership in the Metro Hartford Alliance. Ken Rizzio seconded the motion and noted he felt the money will be more beneficial in other EDIC line items. All members voted in favor.

- e. Status of Pending Land Use Applications – Peter Gillespie reported that the Hartford Hospital’s application to expand their facility at 1260 Silas Deane Highway has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Gillespie also noted that the Historic District Commission’s approval of the Comstock Ferre has been appealed.

4. New Business

- a. Greater Hartford Guest Guide 2008 – Peter Gillespie reported that representatives were continuing to solicit local businesses but that they had not gotten the initial response hoped for. He noted that they will shift focus from Old Wethersfield to businesses on the Silas Deane Highway.
- b. Communications and Public Relations – Keiler – Chair Rosania reported that the Marketing Subcommittee met with Keiler to discuss costs and scope. She noted that several questions are still outstanding and the firm may be too expensive. Mrs. Rosania also discussed one of Keiler’s key participants leaving the firm and contacting Peter Gillespie for freelance work. Additionally, EDIC member Doug Sacks noted that he would be willing to funnel newsworthy information provided to him via email to the media.
- c. Budget 2007/2008 – Peter Gillespie noted that the funds initially earmarked for membership in the Metro Hartford Alliance could be transferred to another EDIC line item. Chair Rosania reported on a meeting with the Chair of the Tourism Commission to discuss how the budget is divided. She noted that Tourism Commission will consult with the EDIC prior to making allocations.
- d. Election of Officers – 2007/2008 – Bill Knapp made a motion to nominate Betty Rosania as EDIC Chair and to nominate Howard Greenblatt as Vice-Chair. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- e. Objectives and Strategies 2007/2008 – Howard Greenblatt noted that it is important to continually revisit the Strategic Plan to ensure it still reflects the desired blueprint to move ahead. Ken Rizzio noted that it has been gratifying to witness some of the programs take hold and expand.

5. Reports of the Town Manager -

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

- Status of the Town Hall renovations.
- Status of the Horse & Buggy Grant.
- Update Blight List
- Movement of 1st & 2nd floor Town Hall operations will be temporarily moved to the Library beginning in October.
- The five year sublease of “J. Michaels Tavern” at the Standish House.

Town Council Liaison's Report - No report presented.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison’s Report – Phil Knecht reported on the highlights of the June 6, 2007 meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison’s Report – No report presented.

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

6. Chairman's Report – Chair Rosania noted that Silas Robbins House Tours will run from October 5-14 to benefit the Keane Foundation and volunteer tour hosts are being sought.
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Financial Strategies – Ken Rizzio reported that Finance Committee recommended approval of a Façade Loan for the International Institute of Cosmetology located at 628-632 Silas Deane Highway a Façade Loan of up to \$50,000. Bill Knapp made a motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
8. Minutes- Approval of June 2007 meeting minutes – Bill Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – August 9, 2007
10. Correspondence
11. Adjournment – Bill Knapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Howard Greenblatt seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner