

Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday July 12, 2012 – 12:00 Noon

Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chair Lyons.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Members in attendance: Lyons, Trahan, Greenblatt, Adamian, Rizzio, Hughes, McHugh and Rosania. Also in attendance: Town Manager Bridges, Town Planner Gillespie, Town Attorney Forsythe and Deputy Mayor Console.
3. Old Business
 - a. Farmers’ Market – Chair Lyons reported on the formation of a new subcommittee to assist the Market that met the previous week to discuss issues regarding parking, traffic, banners, finances and a planned Farm to Table dinner.
 - b. Vacant Property Updates – Mr. Gillespie provided updates: CREC school approved for NU Building, Site redevelopment under way at the Porter and Chester property, Town considering grant application for Weight Watchers Building demolition, planning grant application received for the Masonic Building on Main Street.
 - c. Shops Local Alliance – Plans underway for Shops Local week in late November.
 - d. Website – Vendor selected QSCEND with target date of October 1 for new website unveiling.
 - e. Vibrant Communities Grant – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre – Kick off meeting held with property owners and stakeholders, RFP is being prepared to select consultant with grant funds.
4. New Business
 - a. Façade Applications
 - Linda Pinn, Wethersfield Family LLC – Baskin Building – 217-233 Main Street – Application for new windows reviewed, requesting \$25,000, discussion focused upon previous denial of similar request. Motion by Rosania to deny request based upon past practices and limited impact of improvements, McHugh seconded motion with all members voting in favor.
 - American Legion Building – 275 Main Street - Application for repairs and repainting of building, requesting \$11,560, discussion focused upon whether this is more of a maintenance project than a façade improvement, building conditions were evaluated. Motion made by Rizzio to approve the application, seconded by Rosania. Discussion focused upon the need to encourage and support repainting of the entire building. All members voted in favor of the motion.
 - b. Presentation – Dicioccio Brothers – Elm Street – Attorney Mike Romano and Tom Dicioccio were present to present plans for the relocation of the DiCioccio Brothers landscape contractor business from Newington to this vacant property on Elm Street. Plans were presented and a discussion ensued. The applicants engineer Jack Gilmartin summarized the plans and answered questions. A draft of proposed zoning regulation language changes was distributed. Town Attorney Forsyth discussed the regulation changes and permit processes required. Jim Woodworth representing the Great Meadows Trust expressed his concerns with the project. Betty Rosania motioned to have the EDIC support the proposed regulation amendments, seconded by Dorcas McHugh, the vote showed Lyons, Rizzio, Trahan, Adamian and McHugh in favor, Rosania, Greenblatt and Hughes against.

c. Breakfast Speaker Series – A meeting date for October 16 was selected and a mailing will soon be sent out.

d. Main Street Investment Fund – Mr. Gillespie distributed information regarding this grant opportunity, a consensus was reached that the Town should consider applying for funds to implement the Main Street recommendations from the Preserve America plan.

e. Election of Officers 2012/2013 – Tabled.

5. Other Business

6. Reports

Town Manager's Report – Town Manager Bridges reported on the budget, STEAP applications, Façade funding, Road Paving and the High School renovation project.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported on the upcoming Stakeholders meeting and grant opportunities.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Ellyn Laramie reported on the September 15 Cornfest, July 31 Business After Hours, Keeney Concerts, possible car show next spring.

7. Chairman's Report - Chair Lyons asked members to consider the upcoming election of officers and suggested that the Commission not meet in August.

8. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Meeting scheduled for August 15.

Financial Strategies – Ken Rizzio reported on the availability of façade funding.

Farmers' Market – Discussed above.

9. Minutes – June Meeting – No action taken.

10. Next Meeting – September 13, 2012

11. Correspondence

12. Adjournment – Member Rosania motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 p.m., Member Greenblatt seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.