

**Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)
Regular Meeting – Thursday January 10, 2013 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager’s Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall
MINUTES**

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) – Members in attendance: Doug Sacks, Betty Rosania, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, Greg Bedula, Howard Greenblatt, John Adamian, Vincent Fabi, Tony Martino, Stathis Manousos-Town Council, Jeff Bridges-Town Manager, Ellyn Laramie-Chamber of Commerce, Peter Gillespie-Director of Planning & Economic Development and Denise Bradley-Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. **Farmers’ Market** - Doug Sacks noted that the market closed for the season and that a dinner is being planned for the Solomon Wells House in February. He reported on grant opportunities and the need for \$2,500 in matching funds. A brief discussion ensued and the members asked Peter Gillespie to investigate potential matching funds.
 - b. **Vacant Property Updates** – Peter Gillespie gave status updates regarding the following properties:
 - 176 Cumberland Avenue
 - 125 Silas Deane Highway
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway
 - c. **Website** – Peter Gillespie reported that staff had participated in website training and will be working to review and update specific pages.
 - d. **Grants**
 1. Vibrant Communities Grant – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre – Peter Gillespie reported that a stakeholder’s meeting is scheduled for January 16th to kick-off the public participation portion of the process. The town has contracted with CME consultants.
 2. Main Street Investment Fund Grant-Waiting on grant announcement.
 3. 2012 STEAP Grant-Waiting on grant announcement.
 4. Tourism Product Development Grant-Waiting on grant announcement.
4. New Business
 - a. **Business Visitations**-Discussion focused on the need to jump-start visitations. Members Tony Martino and Greg Bedula agreed to participate in visits. Packets and training will be provided.
 - b. **Salute To Business Event**-A discussion ensued regarding the success of the event. There were 140 attendees and staff has received positive feedback. Staff would like to meet to provide more detailed feedback to the Marketing Subcommittee.
 - c. **Town Guide/Calendar**-The proof was distributed for comments. Final edits are being made and printing is expected at the end of January.
 - d. **Holidays On Main**-Members Bedula, Lyons, Fabi and McHugh were recognized for participating in the Fried Dough booth to benefit the Farmer’s Market. A total of \$332 was raised.

- e. **Plan of Conservation and Development Update**-A public hearing will be held on April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.
 - f. **CIP/Budget - 2013/2014**-Peter Gillespie has submitted several requests to CIP for façade improvement, Main Street improvements, redevelopment and wayfinding signs. The subcommittee is presently meeting to review requests.
5. Other Business – There was no other business to report.
 6. Reports **Town Manager's Report**-Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
 - Budget
 - Wilkus
 - State of the Town**Town Council Liaison's Report**-Stathis Manousos discussed the status of the Wilkus Farm proposal and questions ensued.
Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report-Peter Gillespie discussed the status of the Wethersfield High School project and the Plan of Conservation and Development update.
Tourism Commission Liaison's Report-Dorcas McHugh discussed the results of the photo contest and the website update.
Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report-Peter Gillespie reported that the Agency met recently and is investigating new sites and waiting for the STEAP grant announcement regarding 1000 Silas Deane Highway.
Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report-Ellyn Laramie reported on the success of the Holidays on Main and noted the schedule of upcoming Business After Hours and the State of the Town events.
Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report-No additional report was given.
 7. Chairman's Report-No report was given.
 8. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications-No additional report was given.
Financial Strategies-No report was given.
 9. Minutes – November Meeting – Dorcas McHugh made a motion to approve the minutes. Betty Rosania seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
 10. Next Meeting – February 14, 2013
 11. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.
 12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.