

Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday May 9, 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 PM
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) - Betty Rosania, Joan Hughes, Howard Greenblatt, John Adamian, Doug Sacks, Dorcas McHugh, Tony Martino, Ken Rizzio, Lucas Watson, Melanie Goodin; Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Bridges; Town Manager, Peter Gillespie; Director of Planning and Economic Development and Denise Bradley; Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie reported on the status of the following properties:
 - 176 Cumberland Avenue
 - 125 Silas Deane Highway
 - 1178 Silas Deane Highway
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway
 - 295 Ridge Road
 - b. Tourism Website Peter Gillespie noted that the Tourism page should be up and running next week. Dorcas McHugh commended the new website for its streamlined design and photos.
 - c. Grants
 1. Vibrant Communities Grant – Masonic Building and Comstock Ferre – CME draft report expected by 5/17 with final public input opportunity to follow. He noted that an offer was placed for the Masonic Hall.
 2. Main Street Investment Fund Grant – Waiting on announcement.
 3. 2013 STEAP Grant – Waiting on announcement.
 4. CT Grown Joint Venture Program – Announcement should be made in June.
 5. Heritage Interpretive Trail – Waiting on announcement.
 6. State Bond Commission – Approved \$500,000 for playgrounds, soccer fields and Main Street intersection improvements.
 - d. Farmer's Market – Doug Sacks reported that the season will open on Thursday, May 16th at 3 PM with many new vendors. Peter Gillespie noted that a meeting would be held to discuss parking and placement of safety cones. Betty Rosania made a motion to fund 24 new traffic cones at a cost of \$240. Tony Martino seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
4. New Business
 - a. Business Visitations – Visitations were completed as follows:
 - Milagro's Spanish Restaurant – Doug Sacks
 - Sophia's Brick Oven Pizza – Melanie Goodin

Visitation packets were assigned as follows:

- Panera – Tony Martino
- Retro Fitness – Howard Greenblatt
- Cherry Berry – Melanie Goodin
- Pizza Hut – Melanie Goodin

- b. Budget - 2013/2014 – Jeff Bridges noted that the Town budget was passed and the BOE budget is still waiting approval.
 - c. Grand Openings/Ribbon Cuttings – Nothing to report.
 - d. Chamber of Commerce – Melanie Goodin noted that the annual meeting will be held at the Wethersfield Country Club on May 15th.
 - e. Breakfast Meeting – Peter Gillespie discussed hosting a meeting in late June for vacant property owners.
5. Other Business
6. Reports Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges discussed the following:
- Budget
 - Rocky Hill Nursing Home issue
 - WHS status
- Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.
 Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie reported that the POCD had been approved with an effective date of June 1st.
 Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh noted that the Chester Bulkley Bed & Breakfast is being featured in Yankee Magazine.
 Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – The Agency is waiting for STEAP Grant funding announcements related to 1000 Silas Deane Highway.
 Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Melanie Goodin reported on several Business Visitations and asked the EDIC members planning to attend the annual meeting to RSVP.
 Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie noted that a new rack card is being designed for the Tourism Commission and noted that as the Salute to Business event and Town Calendar projects moved forward he would ask for volunteers to participate.
7. Chairman's Report – No report was given.
8. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Nothing additional to report.
 Financial Strategies – Ken Rizzio noted that there are no new requests for funding however, several inquiries have been made.
9. Minutes – April 11, 2013 Meeting – Tony Martino made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Betty Rosania seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – June 13, 2013
11. Correspondence

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner