



## Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday, August 14, 2014 – 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) - Mark Trahan - Chair, Ken Rizzio, Joan Hughes, John Adamian, Peter O'Keefe, Judy Keane, Mirella D'Antonio, Tony Martino - Town Council Liaison, Melanie Goodin - Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Bridges - Town Manager, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning and Economic Development and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.

Mark Trahan took a minute to welcome new members Judy Keane, Mirella D'Antonio and Peter O'Keefe and to briefly describe current EDIC Initiatives.

3. Old Business
  - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie reported on the following:
    - 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Working on the Demolition Agreement and State Grant paperwork has been received, property owner is negotiating with potential tenants.
    - 1178 Silas Deane Highway - Proposed contract for use is being worked on but there has been no contact with Town Staff
    - 341 Jordan Lane - Being marketed and have had several inquiries.
    - 150-210 Silas Deane Highway - Renovated shopping center with multiple vacancies
    - Potential Interest for Redevelopment of the corner of Nott Street and Berlin Turnpike.
  - b. Grant Project Status
    1. Heritage Interpretive Walk – HFGP and CT Humanities - Unveil Memorial Day Weekend next year. Grant extension was approved. Public workshop at the Keeney was held to exhibit draft panels.
    2. Church/Main Street Intersection - Grant timeline restrictions are keeping this project moving forward. There will be a series of meeting to present the project to the public.
    3. STEAP 2014 - \$200K for the demolition of 1000 Silas Deane Highway and \$250K to replenish the Facade Loan Program.
4. New Business
  - a. Business Directory - ShopWethersfield.biz - Program to help promote businesses in town. The idea is to create a search engine and provide this as a new free marketing tool.
  - b. Business Breakfast - Peter Gillespie noted that the Marketing Subcommittee met a few weeks ago and discussed focusing on Healthcare Exchanges and Insurance as a topic. A brief discussion ensued and details will be finalized at the next subcommittee meeting.
  - c. Façade Improvement Program and Policy - There are no applications pending. Peter Gillespie distributed copies of the revised draft of program policies for review and described the proposed changes.
  - d. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute To Business – December 11, 2014
  - e. 2014/2015 Election of Officers – To take place at September Meeting.
  - f. STEAP 2015 - Received notice yesterday regarding a new round of funding becoming available for capital projects that promote economic development, emergency preparedness and/or infrastructure repair with

preference for projects which create or retain jobs, improve quality of life for residents, can begin in the immediate future and have secured necessary additional funds for the project. Accepting applications until November 28, 2014.

5. Other Business – There was no other business to report.
6. Reports           Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:  
                          WHS - Open September 2  
  
                          Town Council Liaison's Report – Tony Martino reported on the following:  
                          WHS renovation project  
                          License Agreement for Finance Assistance  
                          Radio System  
                          Stillman Roof Repair  
                          Expanding Folly Brook  
                          Street Construction/Repair Bids  
  
                          Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on  
                          the following  
                          CROCOG and CT Transit Regional Bus Shelter Program  
                          Office Depot will be closing in the Goff Brook Shops. Planet Fitness has  
                          been approved to move into the tenant space.  
  
                          Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – There was no meeting in July.  
  
                          Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report –Melanie Goodin reported on the  
                          following:  
                          Fireworks  
                          Business Leads Exchange Program  
                          Business After Hours August 22nd at Buffalo Wild Wings  
  September 10 - Live Right Wellness  
  September 24 - Wethersfield Historical Society  
                          Cornfest September 20th  
  
                          Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie  
                          reported on the following  
                          Romp n' Roll - Goff Brook Shops  
                          Pretty Paws - Atlas Tile former Capri Salon on the Berlin Turnpike  
                          Monica Holloway - New Zoning Enforcement Officer  
                          EDO ICHI - 580 Silas Deane Highway  
                          Ensafe - 1233 Silas Deane Highway  
                          River Rock Yoga - 506 Silas Deane Highway  
                          Wethersfield Diner - Closed  
                          Dr. Shapiro - Garden Street  
                          Dance 10 Expanding on the Silas Deane Highway
7. Chairman's Report – Mark Trahan had nothing additional to report.
8. Sub-Committee Reports           Marketing and Communications - Nothing additional to report.

Financial Strategies - Ken Rizzio noted that the existing set of Facade Program Policies is available to compare the existing with the proposed.

9. Minutes – July 10, 2014 Meeting. John Adamian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – Thursday, September 11, 2014
11. Correspondence - There was no other correspondence to discuss.
12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner