



## Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday, May 8, 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, Dan Silver, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, Gioia Zack, Tony Martino - Council Liaison, 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 following properties:
    - 1178 Silas Deane Highway-Met with an interested developer
    - 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Applied for STEAP funding, awaiting award announcement. Potential for demolition of existing structure and construction of two new retail buildings.
    - 341 Jordan Lane - Former rehabilitation facility.
  - b. Grant Project Status
    1. Heritage Interpretive Trail – HFGP and CT Humanities - 5/8/14 Meeting scheduled.
    2. Church/Main Street Intersection - Engineering firm is pulling together traffic and engineering data. Schedule of public meetings will be firmed up soon.
    3. STEAP Applications 2014 - Peter Gillespie reported that the 3 applications authorized by the Town Council have been filed with the Office of Policy & Management.
  - c. Wethersfield Farmer’s Market - There was an article that appeared in the 5/8 Hartford Courant regarding the Market setting up a non-profit entity to continue to run the Market. Opening Day is scheduled for 5/15 from 3-6 PM at Solomon Wells.
4. New Business
  - a. Business Directory - ShopWethersfield.biz – Denise Bradley reported that the business survey had been finalized and would be sent to all the businesses in town asking for updated contact information. Minuteman Press will complete the printing and mailing.
  - b. Budget 2014/2015 - Town Council meeting 5/8. Finalizing on 5/13.- Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the EDIC budget and a brief discussion ensued.
  - c. Façade Improvement Applications - Peter Gillespie reported that there is one application pending for 121 Main Street. He described the applicants request for funding of siding and windows. The Historic District Commission approved the proposal. The Finance sub-Committee met on 5/7 to discuss the proposed improvements. The

sub-Committee made a recommendation to fund \$11,500 for the project.

- e. Façade Improvement Program and Policies - Meeting 5/21 to discuss revising the existing policies and forms.
- f. Business Incentives - Peter Gillespie discussed a recent article regarding a new incentive program offered by the Ridgefield Economic Development Commission for new businesses that sign leases, build or purchase property in town.
- g. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Business – December 11
- h. EDIC membership and roles and responsibilities

5. Other Business

6. Reports Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:

- Town Budget will be approved next week.
- WHS increase approved by State Legislators.

Town Council Liaison's Report – Tony Martino discussed finalizing the Town Council budget on 5/13.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh noted that the Committee has continued to make steady progress and commended them for all their recent hard work. Mrs. McHugh reported on the highlights of the 5/29 Meeting.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the following:

1260 Silas Deane Highway

249-263 Main Street

106 Nott Street

Medical Marijuana Text Amendment Denied

Farmers Market will commence on 5/15

Memorial Weekend

7. Chairman's Report – Mark Trahan – No additional report was given.

8. Sub-Committee Reports
- Marketing and Communications – No additional report was given.
  - Financial Strategies- No additional report was given.

Farmers' Market – No additional report was given.

9. Minutes – March 13, 2014 Meeting. The adoption of minutes was postponed.
10. Next Meeting – Thursday June 12, 2014
11. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.
12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner