



TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

Planning and Economic Development Department Report

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Peter D. Gillespie,
Development Manager
Phone (860) 721-2838
peter.gillespie@wethersfieldct.com

Town Planner and Economic
e-mail:

RECENT PROJECTS

- **CREC Discovery Academy - 176 Cumberland Avenue.** Work is well underway to accommodate the plans for this new 70,000 s.f. elementary Magnet School. The PZC recently approved changes to the construction schedule to accommodate project delays.
- **Chip's Restaurant – 1301 Silas Deane Highway – Goff Brook Shops.** New building construction is progressing for this 4,500 s.f., 170 seat restaurant. Anticipated opening in mid October.
- **Comstock Ferre – 263 Main Street.** Recently completed Phase 1 of the parking lot renovation which includes a new brick paver system and garden display areas.
- **Edo Ichi – Sushi and Hibachi Steakhouse - 580 Silas Deane Highway.** Interior renovations are underway to establish this new Sushi and Hibachi Style restaurant. Plans include seating for approximately 130.
- **Double A Veterinary Clinic - 106 Nott Street.** Construction is nearing completion for this small addition.
- **Griffiths Academy – 275 Main Street.** This property was recently sold to the dance academy and interior improvements are underway.
- **Planet Fitness – 1275 Silas Deane Highway.** Plans have been approved to establish a gym/fitness club in this space presently occupied by Office Depot.
- **Dance 10 - 401 Silas Deane Highway.** Business is expanding into adjacent space within this building.
- **Pretty Pups and Mutts – 1868 Berlin Turnpike.** This dog grooming business has opened.
- **Scott Kneeland Karate – 500A Silas Deane Highway.** This karate studio has opened on the lower level of this building.
- **EnSafe – 1233 Silas Deane Highway.** This environmental consulting company has leased space in this building.

- **Romp N Roll – 1267 Silas Deane Highway.** Plans have been submitted for approval for a children's gym in this 4,600 s.f. space formerly occupied by the Wooden Toy.
- **221 Main Street.** Application approved for a country store to lease the space presently occupied by River Rock Yoga.
- **Edward Jones 1331 Silas Deane Highway.** A permit has been issued for interior renovations to accommodate the offices of Edward Jones Investments.
- **AON Consulting – Suite 206 – 100 Great Meadow Road.** A permit was issued for interior renovations for this office tenant.
- **Senior Link – Suite 505 – 100 Great Meadow Road.** A permit has been issued for interior improvements for Senior Link.
- **Trinity Episcopal – 290 Main Street.** Plans were approved to split the Rectory property off from the larger church property. This building constructed in the 1760's is approximately 4,000 s.f. in size and is located in the Village Business Commercial zone.
- **Bus Shelter Program.** Continuing to work with CT Transit and CRCOG to have 9 new bus shelters installed throughout the community. PZC and Council have approved plans and matching funds. Anticipated installation this Fall.
- **Zoning/Property Maintenance Officer Hired.** Working closely with our recently hired ZEO/PMO Monica Holloway to identify enforcement priorities and to review policies to further assist her in her new position.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION (EDIC)

- **Façade Improvement Program** The following projects were recently approved for funding by the EDIC:
 - Repairs and repainting of 20-30 Beaver Road office building. \$32,000
 - Exterior improvements including doors, siding, porch, landscaping and lighting at 326 Silas Deane Highway. \$20,000
 - New doors, windows, site improvements and the repainting of the mixed use building located at the corner of Hartford Avenue and Main Street 279-287 Main Street. \$30,000
 - New siding, trim, painting, landscaping and door for 121 Main Street. \$11,500
- The Commission is in the midst of a review of the policies and procedures established for the façade program and will shortly be forwarding the proposed changes to the Council for approval.
- **On-Line Business Directory.** Staff are working on a new comprehensive on-line Wethersfield business directory. Conducted business mailing to the entire business community and received nearly 400 responses.

- **STEAP Grant Approved.** Received notice that the STEAP application recently prepared and filed with the State Office of a Policy and Management for funds for the demolition of 1000 Silas Deane Highway and additional funds for the Facade Improvement Program were approved in the amount of \$450,000.
- **Development Agreement – 1000 Silas Deane Highway.** Working with Town Attorney, Town Manager and property owner to develop terms that will outline the details of the agreement for the use of the \$200,000 STEAP grant recently awarded for the demolition and site preparation of this site. The property owner is presently negotiating terms with prospective tenants/developer.

TOURISM COMMISSION

- **Seasonal Rack Card.** The Commission continues to promote the Historic Wethersfield brand throughout the State and since last August has distributed 40,000 of the recently redesigned seasonal rack cards through our contract with CTM Media.
- **Monthly Event Calendar.** The Commission continues to produce and distribute via email the monthly event calendar/newsletter.
- **Wethersfield Heritage Walk.** With support of a grant of \$17,500 from the Hartford Foundation For Public Giving and an additional grant in the amount of \$35,000 from Connecticut Humanities the Commission has been leading the effort to plan and design the Heritage Interpretive Trail. A public information meeting was held in September and the project continues to progress. The project schedule has been revised with the planned installation anticipated for Spring 2015.