



TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

Planning and Economic Development Department Report May 2014

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RECENT PROJECTS

- A building permit for the former NU property at 176 Cumberland Avenue has been issued and work is well underway to accommodate the plans for the CREC Magnet School Discovery Academy.
- The following new businesses have opened over the past few months:
 - Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant - Goff Brook Shops
 - Gordon Bonnetti Florist
 - Supa Fitness – Crossfit Studio
 - Gillette Furniture Consignment
 - New Life Christian Fellowship Church – 1155 Silas Deane Highway
 - Aspen Kitchen and Bath – 683 Silas Deane Highway
 - Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate relocated to 1160 Silas Deane Highway
 - Ben Tablione State Farm Insurance – 904 Silas Deane Highway
 - Wooden Toy relocated to different space in Goff Brook Shop
- A certificate of occupancy has been issued for the addition to the Hartford Hospital medical building at 1260 Silas Deane Highway.
- Plans were approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission for renovations/additions to the former Masonic Hall at 245 Main Street for residential use.
- A building permit has been issued for Chip's Restaurant in the Goff Brook Shops.
- Comstock Ferre has recently started work on parking lot and garden improvements.
- Discussions with a group interested in renovating the former Wells Tavern at 580 Silas Deane Highway.
- Construction is underway for an addition to the Double A Veterinary Clinic at 106 Nott Street.

- Met with individuals interested in leasing former Amici's restaurant space at 672 Silas Deane Highway.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

- A Pre Application review was conducted for the redevelopment of the Mobil Station at 708 Silas Deane Highway.
- A Pre Application review was conducted for a memory care facility Lifestyles Unlimited on the Harris Property at the end of Old Reservoir Road.
- The Commission is discussing the formation of a Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Subcommittee to monitor progress on the various recommendations included in the recently adopted Plan. The Commission set an effective date for the Plan of June 2013. Copies of the Plan are now available.
- Denied a proposal to amend the zoning regulations for the licensing of medical marijuana dispensaries and production facilities. The Town had been approached by an interested party pursuing State licensing of a site.
- Application pending for a country store to lease the space presently occupied by River Rock Yoga at 221 Main Street.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

- Recently approved a facade loan for the repairs and repainting of 20-30 Beaver Road office building.
- Recently approved a façade loan for the repainting of the mixed use building located at the corner of Hartford Avenue and Main Street.
- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 14 at the Wethersfield Country Club. Tickets are available.
- Staff are working on a new comprehensive on-line Wethersfield business directory.
- STEAP applications were prepared and filed with the State Office of a Policy and Management for funds for the demolition of 1000 Silas Deane Highway, Facade Improvement Program, Solomon Welles House and the Standish House.
- The Wethersfield Farmers Market is opening on Thursday March 15 at the Solomon Welles House. The Market has recently established itself as a new corporation.

- In January hosted a successful State of the Town Breakfast in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce at the Keeney Center. Had great assistance from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.
- Hosted a very successful 24th Annual Salute To Business at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- Produced a new commercial real estate promotional piece entitled "Why Wethersfield?"

TOURISM COMMISSION

- The Commission is completing work on the design of the Spring/Summer rack card which will be distributed at visitor attractions throughout Connecticut.
- The Commission has also completed the design and distribution of a new monthly event calendar/newsletter.
- 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.
- The Commission announced the winners of the Fall 2013 Wethersfield Community Photo Contest.
- Wethersfield was recognized as a "Small New England Town To Visit" in an online publication.
- Various stakeholder groups including the Historical Society, Webb Deane Stevens Museum and Comstock Ferre are jointly promoting May 24 and 25 as Heritage Weekend.