



# TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

## Planning and Economic Development Department Report October 2014

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### 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.** A temporary co has been issued for this 4,500 s.f., 170 seat restaurant. A ribbon cutting date will be announced in the near future.
- **Edo Ichi – Sushi and Hibachi Steakhouse - 580 Silas Deane Highway.** Interior renovations are complete to establish this new Sushi and Hibachi Style restaurant. Plans include seating for approximately 130. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Tuesday October 7.
- **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 has expanded into adjacent space within this building. A ribbon cutting will be held on October 11.
- **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.
- **Bus Shelter Program.** Continuing to work with CT Transit and CROCOG to have 9 new bus shelters installed throughout the community. PZC and Council have approved plans and matching funds. Anticipated installation in November.

- **River Rock Yoga – 286 Silas Deane Highway** Plans have been approved to convert this space to accommodate the new home of River Rock Yoga.
- **Tamarind Grill** This restaurant has converted over to and Indian Restaurant.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION (EDIC)**

- **Façade Improvement Program** The following projects That are under construction through assistance from this program:
  - 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 consideration.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Salute To Business** – Mark your calendar for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute To Business scheduled for Thursday December 11 at the Wethersfield Country Club.
- **2015 Town Calendar** – We are working on next year’s Town Calendar, deadline for updated and new content is October 31.
- **STEAP 2015** – The State is accepting applications for next year’s round of funding and will be accepting these applications until November 28. Staff are discussing project priorities which will be forwarded to Council for a final decision.

## **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. We have just updated the design of the most recent rack card and have placed an order for an additional 25,000.
- **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. We are in the midst of editing the panel and kiosk designs. The project schedule has been revised with the planned installation anticipated for Spring 2015.
- **Photo Contest.** We are in the midst of soliciting entries for this year's community photo contest. Entry forms will be available on the Town website and the deadline for entries is November 11.
- **Group Tour Package.** We are working our State Tourism District staff to create a package of offerings that might be attractive to group tour providers.
- **Preserve America Grant – Wayfinding.** Recently prepared the Final Report and budget accounting to close out this \$90,000 grant. This grant was used to install the signs included in Phase 1 of this project. We are now reviewing the details for the signs that will be installed in Phase 2 through the use of Town funding.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

- **Cooper v. Wethersfield PZC** – On September 12 we received notice of the decision that the PZC's decision to deny this subdivision application was upheld.
- **Telecommunication Tower – Two Rod Highway** – We have received notice of plans for the installation of a tower on the Harris property on Two Rod Highway. Be advised that these types of applications are regulated by the CT Siting Council. Our PZC does not have jurisdiction.