

Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 308
Somers, Connecticut 06071

EDC Minutes

April 6, 2009

Call to Order

The chairman, Lou Bachetti called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Attendance

Members present were, Ron Elliott, Robert Schmidt, David Reed, Richard Cheney Maura Gardiner and Louis Bachetti.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Maura Gardiner and seconded by Richard Cheney that the minutes of the February meeting be approved without change. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence

David Reed informed the commission of two upcoming continuing education courses, sponsored by the Connecticut Economic Development Association, pertaining to fundamentals of economic development and planning; and trends in development pertaining to traditional villages. After discussion a motion was made by Maura Gardiner, seconded by Lou Bachetti, that the commission approve the registration for three members to attend. David Reed mentioned that grant funds were available and that he would pursue obtaining the grant to fund the registration fee. The motion was approved unanimously.

During this portion of the open session of the meeting, a local builder addressed the commission expressing his concerns about the pending changes to the open space regulations and requested the commission to review its implication. The commission thanked the builder for sharing his concerns.

The Tolland Chamber of Commerce contacted the commission and requested a copy of the pending business directory. The commission agreed to send a copy, once it is finalized.

Somersville Mill

David Reed stated that there has been no significant new activity concerning the development of the mill in three months. It was noted previously that the current owner of the mill had introduced a prospective buyer of the property to various members of town hall to discuss due diligence issues. It had also been previously noted that a tax lien against the current owner was filed. The commission expressed its disappointment over the fact that the town has provided no update to the commission concerning an attempt to salvage this landmark and promote pro active development and requested that the Chair and Vice Chair meet with the selectmen to get an update.

Somersville Streetscape

David Reed reported that at the next scheduled meeting of the streetscape committee, the town engineer will have available a set of drawing for the entire area which will be used as the basis for a presentation to the DOT. A motion was made by David Reed, seconded by Lou Bachetti that the EDC present a request to the selectmen that they pass a resolution to accept the project as presented, authorize expenditures using currently available grant funds and initiate additional grant funding procedures of the project. The motion was passed unanimously.

2009 Business Directory

David Reed presented a draft version of the directory to the commission for review and approval. The commission reviewed the expenditures and proceeds generated from advertisers and noted that the breakeven monetary position for this project could not have been achieved without the efforts of Jeanne Reed who coordinated the project. The directory will be printed next week and distribution will be coordinated with the North Central News next issue

Way-Finders Signs

Bob Schmidt updated the group on the status of the project and provided additional understandings of the various regulations through his discussion with officials of state government within the DOT departments. With the knowledge base gained, through Bob's effort, of the rules and regulations concerning sign placements, size and intent the commission is now in a position to begin final preparation of way-finder sign implementation. A definitive draft of the Commission's recommendation will be presented for approval once the detail of number of; signage script; color and placement has been finalized. Bob will be meeting with the town planner to discuss the zoning regulations incorporation of the proposal.

EDC Business Newsletter

Maura Gardiner, the coordinator and primary author of the newsletter, has requested that the commission members provide her with suggestion for articles for the next issue. The second bi annual EDC business newsletter is scheduled for release this summer.

EDC activities update

The next EDC Business after Hours meeting has been postponed from April 2009 and the rescheduled date has not been identified as yet. There are however three businesses that have requested hosting the event.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Cheney, seconded by Maura Gardiner and was approved. The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:35 p. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald L. Elliott, Secretary for the EDC

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.