**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**October 6, 2022**

Attending: R. Casner; E. Glidden; W. McEnery; R. Parady; M. Robidoux
Absent: D. Bergeron; R. Davis; J. Stone
Guests: Lauren Pszczolkowski (EDC Coordinator); A. Shaltiel (Sustainability Team); S. Wheeler

I. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Attendance – Mr. Casner sat Ms. Glidden for Mr. Davis.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the September 1st meeting minutes and Mr. Robidoux requested two revisions.

MOTION MADE BY MS. GLIDDEN, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 MINUTES, AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

A. EDC Chairman Update – Mr. Casner reported the following:

- Fall Weekend had lower turnout this year but he attributed that to the poor weather. Even so, he noted that the presentation of the proposed bike path at the Palmer Warner house had been well received.
- Nutmeg Pharmacy signed a lease to rent the old pharmacy space in the Nathan Hale Plaza and he expects they will move from their current location in 60-90 days.
- Several business properties in the Village are up for sale.

Mr. Casner stated that, in consideration of Ms. Shaltiel's time, he would like to move her presentation on the Sustainability Team up in the agenda.

Ms. Shaltiel thanked the Board for the opportunity to introduce them to the work of the Sustainability Team. She reviewed the types of projects the Team will be working on and noted that there are several levels of certification that Sustainability Teams can achieve. She advised that the East Haddam Team recently applied for a Bronze certification. She responded to several questions from the Board.

Ms. Shaltiel stated that the Sustainability Team would like to partner with EDC in any way their goals overlap. Mr. Casner stated that the Team's efforts to inventory and map farm stands in Town is something that EDC supports and a project they could partner on. He also

noted that the East Haddam and Chester EDCs are collaborating on the bike path project and that he felt it would be beneficial if the Sustainability Teams of each town could participate in a future joint meeting with the two EDCs. Mr. Casner thanked Ms. Shaltiel for briefing the Board on the goals of the Sustainability Team.

B. First Selectwoman's Update – The First Selectwoman was not in attendance; consequently, discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

C. Economic Development Administrator Report - Ms. Pszczolkowski reported the following:

- The Fall Weekend was a reasonably good day given the weather. She and the Board agreed that it would be worthwhile to continue holding the annual event.
- Halloween in the Village is scheduled for October 21. She provided an overview of the event which will include a Build-A-Scarecrow competition, hayrides, and the Rathbun Library's fairy houses display, along with giveaways and/or special offers from the Village businesses.
- The Santa fly-in at the Goodspeed Airport is scheduled for December 6th.
- The updated Visitor's Guides have arrived and she will provide Board members with supplies to distribute.
- She is continuing to work on creating a comprehensive list of Town businesses and has reached out to the High School to see if any students are interested in helping with the project.
- She is brainstorming a project to create an East Haddam farm stand trail map. Mr. Robidoux suggested creating an East Haddam Farm Stand Passport program which could hold a drawing for prizes at the end of the season.

D. EDC/PZC Sub-Committees

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program - Mr. Casner provided an update on this project and reviewed a map of the proposed bike path with the Commissioners. He stated that the group has one more public session planned, after which the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance team will begin writing up a narrative of the project plans that can be used for grant applications.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – Mr. Casner reported that representatives of the sub-committee met with the Council of Governments (COG) to discuss potential funding for the engineering work for this project. He stated that COG was very helpful and indicated that the CT DOT may be a potential partner. He stated that First Selectwoman Haines will reach out to DOT to initiate the request.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area – There was no new update on this agenda item. Mr. Casner advised that he will schedule a meeting for the sub-committee within the next two weeks.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

a. Welcome Wagon initiative – Mr. Robidoux stated he will schedule a meeting for himself and Mr. Casner with the website administrator.

F. Goodspeed Landing – Swingbridge Project – Mr. Casner reported that, due to mechanical issues, until further notice beginning on October 6th there will only be two scheduled openings of the bridge daily. He noted that there is also a problem with one of the gates which has resulted in long delays for drivers.

G. Membership – Dave Merrick's Appointment – Mr. Casner stated that he would like to change Ms. Glidden's status to a regular member and recommend Mr. Merrick for appointment to fill the vacant alternate position on the Commission.

MOTION MADE BY MR. CASNER, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT ELIZABETH GLIDDEN'S POSITION ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BE CHANGED TO REGULAR STATUS. UNANIMOUS AYE.

MOTION MADE BY MS. GLIDDEN, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT MR. DAVID MERRICK BE APPOINTED TO FILL THE VACANT ALTERNATE POSITION ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

H. Sustainability Committee Presentation – This presentation was made earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.

V. New Business

A. Business of the Month – Ms. Pszczolkowski stated that the pictures for the October and November Businesses of the Month have been scheduled. Mr. Robidoux advised that he had discussed EDC's recommendation to have a representative from the Business Association participate in the pictures with Ms. Stone. He stated that they agreed that, depending on availability, either he or Ms. Stone would participate in the photos.

Mr. Casner stated he would like to create a list of six businesses for the award for the subsequent six months. Mr. Robidoux recommended the Little Village Pre-School be included on the list.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

VII. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

In response to a question raised by Ms. Pszczolkowski, Mr. Casner stated that he has not heard anything about the new owner's development plans for the old Cumberland Farms gas station. He stated he will check with the appropriate Town departments to see if they have any information.

VIII. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler