**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**November 3, 2022**

Attending: R. Casner; E. Glidden; D. Merrick; R. Parady; M. Robidoux
Absent: D. Bergeron; R. Davis; W. McEnery; J. Stone
Guests: Lauren Pszczolkowski (EDC Coordinator)

I. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Attendance – Mr. Casner sat Mr. Merrick for Mr. Davis.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the October 6th meeting minutes.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MS. GLIDDEN, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 MINUTES, AS AMENDED. MR. MERRICK ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY OF AYES.

IV. Old Business

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

- There was a good article about Moodus Mud being awarded Business of the Month on the front page of the East Haddam News. There was a general discussion regarding the business.
- He will be meeting with Haddam's EDC on November 16th to update them on the bike trail plans and get a list of their businesses to add to the trail map.
- Chester met with CT DOT representatives to discuss how to mark their roads for the bike trail.

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:

- Halloween in the Village and the Build-A-Scarecrow competition went very well; there were approximately 30 participants in the Scarecrow competition. There was a general discussion regarding expanding the event to the Moodus area next year.
- Due to a conflict with a school holiday event, the Santa fly-in at the Goodspeed Airport has been re-scheduled from December 6th to December 13th. She requested assistance in setting up for the event.

- She met with the Art League to discuss their request to use the old Town Offices building to display their art work. The Board discussed several potential locations; however, it was agreed that having activity in the old Town Offices would be a boost to the Village as well as the Art League. Ms. Pszczolkowski stated she would discuss the request with First Selectwoman Haines.
- She has been working on updating the EDC website.

D. EDC/PZC Sub-Committees

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program - Mr. Casner reported that he participates in Zoom meetings with the group every two weeks. He stated that CT Landmarks has scheduled a final "information gathering" meeting for December 8th and then, between January and March, the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance team will write up a narrative of the project plans that can be used for grant applications. He expects the report/narrative to be released in April 2023.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – Mr. Casner reported that First Selectwoman Haines wrote a letter to CT DOT requesting engineering assistance for a parking plan in the Moodus retail area.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Pszczolkowski, Mr. Casner reviewed the goals of this project. He advised that PZC had changed the zoning in the area to allow for buildings up to 3-stories and for residential use on the upper floors. He stated that the long-term goal is to have the retail establishments facing the sidewalks.

In response to a question from Mr. Parady, Mr. Casner advised that the sub-committee considered the area from the Post Office to the Moodus green for potential zoning/parking modifications. There was a general discussion regarding expanding the area to encompass Plains Road from the Moodus green to Wigwam Road. Mr. Casner agreed to review the zoning regulations for that section of Town.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area – Mr. Casner advised that the sub-committee is looking into establishing overlay zoning for the bike path areas. Ms. Glidden stated that she has reached out to Land Use Administrator Ventres for his input.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

a. Welcome Wagon initiative – Mr. Robidoux agreed to schedule a meeting for himself and Mr. Casner with the website administrator.

F. Goodspeed Landing – Swingbridge Project – Ms. Pszczolkowski stated that the work on the bridge will begin in March. She noted that CT DOT has been very good with timely communications about the project to the businesses in the area and the public.

V. New Business

A. Library Study Committee – Mr. Parady advised that the Committee's charge is to identify potential sites for a new library. He provided an overview of the four sites that the Committee will recommend to the Board of Selectmen and noted that state funding for the project may be available.

Mr. Parady responded to several questions from Board members and confirmed that a new committee will be established to move the project forward after the Board of Selectmen make their decision on a location for the new library.

B. Crosswalks in the South Town Street area - Routes 82/434/151 Bike Trail area – Mr. Casner advised that the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program representatives have recommended crosswalks be added in the four-corners area of Town Street. He noted that the crosswalks recently added in the Tylerville section of Haddam were very attractive and confirmed that the group will work with CT DOT regarding their request.

C. Business of the Month – It was noted that BGTEnvironmental, LLC will be the November Business of the Month. Ms. Pszczolkowski will schedule the photo and draft a press release.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

VII. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

Mr. Merrick noted that signage on many state and Town roads does not provide sufficient information about road conditions for business traffic, especially large tractor trailers. He agreed to provide Mr. Casner with a list of locations where more informational signage would be appropriate.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler