East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023

Attending: R. Casner; E. Glidden; W. McEnery; D. Merrick; R. Parady
Absent: D. Bergeron; R. Davis; M. Robidoux; J. Stone
Guests: L. Pszczolkowski; F. Pszczolkowski

I. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes.

MOTION MADE BY MR. McENERY, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2022 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

A. EDC Chairman Update - Mr. Casner reported that the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program has identified some grant funding for the construction of the proposed bike/hiking trail. He stated he would present it to the Board of Selectmen and provide additional information at the next EDC meeting.

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

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

- The Santa Fly-In went well. She stated that she would like to find a new storage location for the star props used at the event.
- She is working on a "Farm Stand Trail" map and noted that the Sustainability Committee had sent her the results of their survey on farm stands.

Mr. Casner advised that the Agriculture Commission had proposed establishing a permanent structure for the farmers' market. There was a general discussion regarding the benefits of the Ag Commission's proposal and the Board agreed to look into creating a joint AG/EDC study committee for the project.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Pszczolkowski, Mr. Casner confirmed that the Airport Festival will not be held in 2023; however, he hopes to recruit a professional to organize and manage the event in subsequent years.

D. Sub-Committee Reports

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program - Mr. Casner reported that the group is starting to develop a design for the proposed bike/hiking path. He noted that funding would be required for a feasibility/engineering study.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – There was no new update on this agenda item.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area – Ms. Glidden stated that she has reached out to Land Use Administrator Ventres as well as the Hebron Town Planner for input.

i. Cross walks in the South Town Street area – Routes 82/434/151 – There was no new update on this agenda item.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

Mr. Robidoux was not in attendance consequently discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

a. Welcome Wagon initiative – Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

F. Goodspeed Landing – Swingbridge Project – Mr. McEnery stated that work on the Swingbridge has been moving forward consistently. Mr. Merrick recommended requesting the CT DOT review GPS traffic re-routing directions to ensure they don't redirect traffic over the Swingbridge when there is a problem on I-95 or other state highways.

There was a general discussion regarding how EDC could assist the Village businesses during periods of bridge closures. The Board brainstormed several ideas including potential financial assistance, additional communication about bridge, as well as business, openings and closings, planning more street events in the Village during the scheduled periods when there is no traffic due to bridge closures, and offering one of the Town buildings to the Art League for their use at a significantly reduced cost. Ms. Pszczolkowski agreed to reach out to the Art League,

V. New Business

A. Business of the Month – (Feb – Moodus Daycare, Plains Road / Mar – Bookstore in the Village

Ms. Pszczolkowski advised that she has reached out to both businesses to schedule a time/date to take the Business of the Month photo.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

VII. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

Ms. Glidden suggested using the Town garage in the Village for the farmers' market until a permanent structure can be established.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler