East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the January 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

MOTION MADE BY MR. McENERY, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2023 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

A. EDC Chairman Update - Mr. Casner provided an update on the FY2023-2024 budget process. He noted that EDC's printing budget had been reduced by approximately one-third. He also advised that he had acted on Finance Director Funk's recommendation to move the $12k funding request in EDC's Operating Budget for outside professional services to a capital expense. He noted that, as a capital item, if the funds are not expended in a particular fiscal year, they will roll over to the next year, unlike Operating Budget line items which do not automatically roll over.

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:

- She partnered with the Fire Department to hold an Easter Egg Hunt and it went well.
- She is working on a "Farm Stand Trail" Google map and FaceBook page.
- Some local individuals would like to operate a food truck in Town and had requested suggestions for locations where their truck can be regularly parked for business. Mr. McEnery offered space at the Goodspeed Airport.
- She has done some promotional work for the local arts group.

Ms. Pszczolkowski stated that the Town is in need of a commercial kitchen that can be used by the public and, in particular, farm stand businesses. She noted that the cost to use St. Stephen's commercial kitchen is prohibitive for small businesses. There was a general discussion

regarding EDC or the Business Association sponsoring some type of group program for this purpose.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Parady, Ms. Pszczolkowski advised that she had spoken with the First Selectwoman who informed her that the old Town Office building in the village has had the water turned off and is winterized and, therefore, could not be used by the artists' group for a gallery. There was a general discussion regarding locations for a permanent gallery for the arts group.

D. Sub-Committee Reports

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program - Mr. Casner reported that the Town of East Haddam had submitted a grant application to the state of CT for funds to assist with engineering and surveying work for the bicycle path. He noted that the application was for $40k and there is a requirement for an $8k match; however, in-king matches would be allowed. He stated that awards will be published in late May or early June.

Mr. Casner reported that the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance group will be writing its final report shortly and the Board members reviewed a map of the bike/walking path. He stated that the Chester EDC had the CT DOT complete a safety study for them. He further advised that representatives from the East Haddam, Haddam and Chester EDCs will be meeting with the Council of Governments (COG) to discuss potential grants to help implement the project.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – Mr. Casner provided a map of Moodus and noted that there are no sidewalks along Plains road from the Municipal Office Complex to Falls Road. He stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission would like to eliminate Old Plains Road and expand the small green there.

There was a general discussion regarding options to replace the parking spaces that currently exist on Old Plains Road that would be lost. The Board supported Mr. Casner's suggestion that he create a rough draft of the most amenable plan and present it to P&Z and, if acceptable to those Commission members, then present it to the affected property owners.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area –

i. Cross Walks in the South Town Streat Area (Route 82/434/151)I

Mr. Casner advised that Ms. Glidden had done some initial ground work on this project. He stated that he will take her findings and work with Land Use Director Ventres to move the project forward.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

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

F. Goodspeed Landing – Swingbridge Project – Mr. Casner provided a map of the Goodspeed Landing area and there was a general discussion regarding potential revisions to the roads that would result in better traffic flow and also make the area more walkable. There was a consensus to present the plan to the Redevelopment Agency for their consideration.

The Board also discussed several properties in the Village.

V. New Business

A. Town's New Rule Regarding Rear Recycle Bins

Mr. Casner noted that signs have been posted at the Transfer Station stating Town businesses cannot use the large dumpsters at the rear of the property to dispose of cardboard and/or recyclables. There was a general discussion regarding this new restriction.

MOTION MADE BY MR McENERY, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO WRITE A LETTER TO FIRST SELECTMAN HAINES THAT THE PUBLIC WORKS' NEW RULE PROHIBITING TOWN BUSINESSES FROM USING THE CARDBOARD/RECYCLING DUMPSTERS AT THE REAR OF THE TRANSFER STATION BE LIFTED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

B. Business of the Month – (Mar – Bookstore in the Village)

Mr. Casner suggested that he and Ms. Pszczolkowski meet offline to identify several businesses for upcoming Business of the Month recognition. The Board supported Mr. Casner's suggestion and there was a general discussion regarding several businesses.

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 advised that she could get the name and contact information for the Town's grant writer from the First Selectwoman.

The Board brainstormed locations where the East Haddam Visitors Guides could be made available to the public.

In response to a question from Mr. Merrick, Mr. Parady advised that a new Library Committee will research the five sites identified by the original committee as potential locations for a new library and will be charged with making a final recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler