East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 18, 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. Stone.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes. He noted the following correction in item "a" under Old Business, Sub-Committee Reports: change "in-king" to "in-kind".

MOTION MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2023 AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

A. EDC Chairman Update - Mr. Casner opened a discussion about the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission's deliberations on changes to regulations governing farm stands. Ms. Pszczolkowski commented on the tone of the East Haddam News article and noted that she had written a letter to P&Z in support of farm stands which she stated support the Town's value of agriculture. There was a general discussion regarding the existing multi-levels of regulations with which farm stands must comply. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of establishing a sub-committee with representatives from EDC, the Agriculture Commission, P&Z, and local farmers to discuss the subject.

The Commissioners' supported Mr. Casner's suggestion that EDC write a letter to P&Z in support of the farm stands and encourage the Board to not unduly burden them with additional limitations. Mr. Casner stated he would cc the Agriculture Commission into the letter.

Mr. Casner also reported the following:

- Representatives from the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, CT Landmarks, the East Haddam, Haddam, and Chester EDCs, and CT COG had a very productive meeting. He noted the group is working on funding for the bike trail project and they expect the team from the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program to submit their report by the end of June.

- He met with a property owner on Plains Road and discussed an alternative parking solution for his property. He stated that he had agreed to draw up what they discussed and bring it to the attention of P&Z.

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 she has been focusing much of her time on farm stand issues, including the P&Z deliberations of governing regulations and working on a "Farm Stand Trail" Google map and FaceBook page.

D. Sub-Committee Reports

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program – Mr. Casner provided an update on this agenda item during the EDC Chairman's report given earlier in the meeting and his comments are covered in the minutes above.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – Mr. Casner provided an update on this agenda item during the EDC Chairman's report given earlier in the meeting and his comments are covered in the minutes above.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area – Mr. Casner provided an update on the bike path during the EDC Chairman's report given earlier in the meeting and his comments are covered in the minutes above. He noted; however, that no action had been taken as of yet regarding zoning uses in the area.

i. Cross Walks in the South Town Streat Area (Route 82/434/151) - Mr. Casner advised that he anticipates this project will be incorporated into the bike path project.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

Mr. Robidoux reported the following:

- The EHBA has begun hosting its monthly networking events again and the next one is scheduled for May 24th at the Portland Ale House.
- The Business Association has a new website – www.ehbact.com

a. Welcome Wagon initiative – Mr. Robidoux advised that he was recently contacted by the representative from the Neighbor-to-Neighbor website who would like to schedule a meeting with EDC to go over what the website has to offer. In response to a suggestion from Mr. Casner, Mr. Robidoux agreed to invite the individual to the next EDC meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Casner, Mr. Robidoux advised that EDC is not a member of the EHBA.

MOTION MADE BY MR. MERRICK, SECONDED BY MR. McENERY, TO APPROPRIATE $50.00 FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE EAST HADDAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO JOIN THE EAST HADDAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

F. Goodspeed Landing – Swingbridge Project – Mr. Casner reported that 63-hour closings (8pm Sunday to 11am Wednesday) for reconstruction work on the Swingbridge are scheduled to begin in June and will continue through the end of October

It was noted that people can sign-up to receive texts that provide real-time updates on the work on the bridge.

V. New Business

A. Business of the Month

Mr. Casner reported that recognition of a Business of the Month had not been done for May. He stated that he will meet with Ms. Pszczolkowski to select several businesses for the upcoming months' recognition.

Mr. Casner reported EDC would like to hire a director to manage future Airport Festivals. Mr. McEnery confirmed that the Goodspeed Airport would like to continue to provide the site for the event if EDC underwrites the expense of an event manager. There was a general discussion regarding traffic control and parking issues and whether or not to extend the event to two days.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

VII. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

There was no additional business raised by the Commissioners.

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 7:52 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler