EAST HADDAM PLANNING AND ZONING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE
MOODUS CENTER PLANNING REVIEW
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX – 1 PLAINS ROAD – MEETING ROOM #1

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2022
7:00 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER –** First Selectman, Ms. Haines, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

   Members Present: Ms. Irene Haines (First Selectwoman), Mr. Richard Pettinelli (PZC, Secretary), Mr. Crary Brownell (PZC, Chairman), Mr. Robert Casner (EDC Chairman), Mr. Edward Gubbins (PZC Member), Ms. Michele Velez (Director of Public Works), Mr. Andrew Lord (WPCA Chairman), Mr. Mike Robidoux (EDC Member), Mr. Sam Gold (Executive Director of River COG), Mr. TJ Magnoli (Eversource Gas Company).

   Members Absent: Ms. Liz Glidden (EDC Member), Mr. James Ventres (Land Use Administrator).

3. **DISCUSSION – Moodus Center Planning Review –** Ms. Haines explained that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Moodus Center Plan Review. Ms. Haines stated that Moodus is an amazing place for the Town East Haddam and that there are many businesses that exist in Moodus. She added that the Eversource Gas Company will be installing a gas pipeline and that this pipeline will run from Route 149 into the Moodus Center. Ms. Haines explained that the gas pipeline is a high-powered gas pipeline. Ms. Haines explained that she would like to see a regulator placed in the middle of the pipeline so that, when possible, the Town of East Haddam will be able to connect to it and obtain natural gas for the Moodus Center.

   Ms. Haines also mentioned that she is currently revisiting a prior project that occurred, the connectivity of sidewalks in the Moodus Center. Ms. Haines would like to see sidewalks in place around Moodus and up to the Senior Center. Ms. Haines added that there are grants such as Connectivity Grants available. Ms. Haines also explained that the towns Planning & Zoning and Economic Development Sub-Committee will be arranging plans to have a traffic study completed for the Moodus Center.

   Mr. Gold, Executive Director of River COG, informed the Commission that River COG oversees the towns of East Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme as well as all of Middlesex County and New London County. Mr. Gold explained that River COG's roles are funding and planning as well as transportation planning. He added that River COG is a Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Gold informed everyone that the Department of Transportation runs a Connectivity Program, which helps in making areas more pedestrian friendly and safer.

He added that other elements that fall into place when working on a project such as this is zoning, which must be conducive to the vision, both public and private sectors to be engaged along with researching grant opportunities.

Mr. Magnoli from the Eversource Gas Company explained that this project is a Gas Resiliency Project and added that it is a high gas pressured pipeline. He said that it would be an estimated 3 years before the Town of East Haddam would be able to connect to it. Mr. Magnoli believes that a connector may not be required for the town to connect to it. He briefly described the Gas Expansion Program and how the Eversource Gas Company works on a project such as this and the components that are involved.
Ms. Haines would like the Commission to meet again. The Commission agreed to work towards gathering some more information and ideas to initiate things and move forward. The Commission will also be working towards obtaining a traffic study for the Moodus Center.

4. **ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Brownell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Casner and unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Magri