**East Haddam Economic Development Commission**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**September 21, 2023**

Attending: R. Casner; W. McEnery; R. Parady; M. Robidoux
Absent: D. Bergeron; R. Davis; D. Merrick; J. Stone
Guests: None

I. Call to Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Attendance – All Commissioners in attendance were regular Board members

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the June 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. McENERY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2023 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

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

- CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has awarded the Town a grant for $40k for survey and engineering work on East Haddam's section of the proposed bike path. He stated he would like to issue an RFP soon so the work can begin in either late fall or early winter. Mr. Casner responded to several questions from the Board.

- Representatives from the Planning & Zoning Commission, EDC, and the Agriculture Commission are collaborating on updating the farm stand regulations and have met several times. He noted that the updated draft includes new regulations for vineyards and wineries.

- The farmers' market has relocated to the tent on the Shagbark property and sales have improved considerably.

- He attended the last meeting of the Redevelopment Agency and noted that, over the years, several plans for rerouting traffic in the Village area have been developed. The Commissioners reviewed two plans Mr. Casner presented that had been developed to reroute the roads through the area and which achieved a more walkable Village. It was noted that the plans improved pedestrian safety in the area.

  Mr. Casner recommended having someone consolidate the two plans and he would then present the updated plan to the Redevelopment Agency on behalf of EDC. The Commissioners supported his recommendation.

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 – The Economic Development Administrator was not in attendance; therefore, discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

D. Sub-Committee Reports

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program – Mr. Casner reported that, due to the health issues of Chester's First Selectwoman, the town has temporarily suspended its activities on the proposed bike path. Mr. Robidoux noted that Deep River's First Selectman is very enthusiastic about the planned bike path.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – Mr. Casner reported that he and representatives from P&Z and the CT Highway Department walked the Moodus business district and the Highway Department representatives made several recommendations for traffic calming and sight-line improvements. He noted that they sent their report to Land Use Administrator Ventres.

Mr. Casner stated that the Highway Department representatives recommended eliminating the Plains Road spur that comes off of Route 149 in front of the Amasa Day House. He stated that P&Z is in favor of the recommendation and would like to replace the spur and existing parking lot with green space. He reiterated that he has met several times with the owner of the apartment houses on that part of road to discuss alternative plans for parking.

Mr. Casner reviewed a drawing of the plan that he and the property owner have been discussing. The Board discussed the proposed plan and made several comments and suggestions. They authorized Mr. Casner to continue working with P&Z and the property owner on the plan to relocate the apartment buildings' parking area.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area – Mr. Casner provided an update of the Route 82 Bike Path in his Chairman's report earlier in the meeting and his comments are recorded in the minutes above.

i. Cross Walks in the South Town Streat Area (Route 82/434/151) – There was no new update on this agenda item.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

a. Neighbor to Neighbor initiative – Mr. Casner reported that at least five businesses have signed up to advertise on the Neighbor to Neighbor website and that the Town, Senior Center and local churches will all have a page on the site. He stated that the website is expected to go live at the beginning of October.

F. Goodspeed Landing – Swingbridge Project – There was no new update on this agenda item.

V. New Business

A. Business of the Month

Mr. Casner reported that Jansky Rubbish is September's Business of the Month and Scully Landscaping will be the October Business of the Month.

B. Appoint New Vice-Chairman

In response to a request from Mr. Casner, Mr. Robidoux volunteered to be vice-chairman for EDC.

MOTION MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. McENERY, TO APPOINT MICHAEL ROBIDOUX AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner also noted that there is a regular member vacancy on the Board.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO CHANGE DAVID MERRICK'S MEMBERSHIP ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FROM ALTERNATE TO REGULAR TO COMPLETE MR. BERGERON'S TERM WHICH EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2024. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Casner encouraged the Board to submit names to him for potential membership on EDC.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

VII. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

Mr. McEnery reported that he had met with First Selectwoman Haines and discussed plans for the next airport festival. He stated that they discussed holding the event in either the spring of 2024 or fall of 2025 and that Ms. Haines will run the potential dates by the management of the Goodspeed Theater to ensure there is no conflict. He confirmed that Thomas will organize the festival and EDC will act as event sponsor.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler