East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2023

Attending: R. Casner; R. Parady; D. Merrick; M. Robidoux
Absent: R. Davis; W. McEnery; J. Stone
Guests: L. Pszczolkowski, Economic Development Administrator

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

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

3. Approval of Minutes

   Mr. Casner called the Commissioners' attention to the October 19, 2023 meeting minutes. He noted the following: Under the Chairman's Update, make the following change: "*On Tuesday he had met with the Haddam Town Planner and ~~EDC~~ the East Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman to discuss the bike path."*

   MOTION MADE BY MR. PARADY, SECONDED BY MR. ROBIDOUX, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2023 AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. Old Business

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

   - He distributed the proposed ordinance that will govern Farm Stands and Wineries and there was a general discussion regarding the ordinance. Mr. Casner responded to several questions and requested the Board members review the draft language and provide him with their comments. He stated he would also request Jess Stone's input before he provided EDC's feedback to P&Z.

   - He stated that has not yet been able to get engineered drawings for EDC's proposed rerouting of Route 82 through the Village, however, he had drawn up a rough version of the plans the Commissioners had discussed at their October meeting. The Board reviewed Mr. Casner's drawing and discussed the pros and cons of the plan. Mr. Parady emphasized the need for sufficient parking in any future redevelopment of the Village area. The Board agreed to meet for a walk-through of the site.

   - He requested the Commissioners input regarding EDC's meeting schedule for 2024. There was a general discussion regarding the schedule and the consensus was to continue meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

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:

- Halloween in the Village had been postponed from Saturday to Sunday but was still a very successful event.

- Christmas in the Village is scheduled for December 5th. She has been receiving donations for the event and is soliciting business participation. She stated that she has ordered a food-truck for the event and, weather permitting, Santa will fly in, light the Christmas tree, and be available for photos.

- She has been trying to promote support for Small Business Saturdays.

D. Sub-Committee Reports

a. CT Landmarks/EDC – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program – Mr. Casner reiterated that EDC has $40k to spend on the next phase of the plan to create a bike path in Town and an RFP for a surveyor and engineer will be published soon.

b. EDC/PZC – Moodus Development Plan – Parking Regulations – Mr. Casner noted that P&Z will meet next Tuesday and discuss the CT Highway Department's report concerning traffic calming and sight-line improvements for the Moodus business district. He and Mr. Parady will attend the meeting.

c. Route 82 Bike Path / Zoning Uses in the Area – There was no update on this agenda item.

E. East Haddam Business Association (EHBA)

a. Neighbor to Neighbor initiative – Ms. Pszczolkowski advised that she has been working on graphics for the website. She has also been working with Salem and Colchester so they can participate in the program. Mr. Casner recommended asking the Senior Center to include something in the regular mailings.

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

5. New Business

A. Business of the Month

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Casner, Ms. Pszczolkowski confirmed that she would be reaching out to the owners of Sanibel to schedule a photo shoot.

B. Commission vacancy and Membership of Ryan Davis

Mr. Casner noted that there are several vacancies on the Commission and encouraged the current Board members to submit their recommendations of new members. He further advised that Ryan Davis has not attended a meeting in two years and has not responded to any of his efforts to

contact him. There was a general discussion regarding Mr. Davis's membership and the general consensus was that it appears that he no longer has the time to commit to EDC.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. MERRICK, TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOT RENEW MR. PARADY'S TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

C. Elect Chairman (2 Year Term)

Mr. Casner noted that it is time to elect an EDC Chairman. He stated that he is willing to continue as Chairman; however, if someone else is interested in the position, he would step down.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROBIDOUX, SECONDED BY MR. PARADY, TO RE-ELECT ROBERT CASNER TO A TWO-YEAR TERM AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. MR. CASNER ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment discussed at the meeting.

7. Open Discussion – EDC Commissioners

There was no additional discussion.

8. 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 8:30 pm.

Recorded

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Wheeler