East Haddam Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2024

Attending: R. Casner, D. Merrick, W. McEnery, R. Parady, M Robidoux
Absent: J. Stone
Guests: S. Antone, C. Behilo, V. Bergeron, K. Bergeron-Gullemin, J. Curtin, M. Curtin, G. Fellner, J. Gamble, I. Haines, D. Jacome-Dutch, G. Jacome, J. Lovejoy, A. Payne, H. Scully, R. Scully, S. Wade

1. Call to order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Open Discussion of the Future of Business in East Haddam

Mr. Casner thanked all the business owners attending and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. Following introductions, he stated that the Economic Development Commission wanted to bring the business community together to discuss the future of business in East Haddam and he provided the following update on the Town's iniatives in the three commercial districts:

A. East Haddam Landing - Redevelopment of East Haddam Village

Mr. Casner provided an update of the Redevelopment Agency's work on environmental concerns, grant funding, road realignment possibilities, and buildable land.

Jack Lovejoy presented a proposed road realignment plan for the upper landing area and the possibility of creating a park between the foot of Landing Hill Road and the boat launch area. Mr. Casner thanked Mr. Lovejoy for his work on identifying new ways to control the traffic on Main Street.

B. Four-Corners Commercial District - Bike Path on Route 82 at the Four Corners

Mr. Casner advised that EDC is working with the CT Landmarks Group to develop a bike path from the Rose Farm open space parking lot to the Four Corners intersection by Shagbark. He stated that the Town had applied for, and was awarded, a $40k grant to do the survey and engineering work needed for the bike path. Further, that the Town has received 6 bids for the project, and will be awarding the contract after conduction interviews with the three low bidders.

C. Moodus Village Plan

Mr. Casner stated that the Town has establish a committee to look into what can be done to improve the Moodus business area. Mr. Casner reviewed a map of the central Moodus business area, showing an area from the Post Office to the green in front of Amasa Day House.

Mr. Casner then opened the floor to questions and answers and the following comments were made:

- Bergeron – recommended a traffic light be installed at the intersection of W. F. Palmer Road to improve safety.

- Dave Merrick – stated that coming out of North Moodus Road onto Route 149 is another dangerous intersection.

- JoAnne Gamble – said there is a need for sidewalks on the Lumberyard Plaza side of Route 149 in the area from Town Market to North Moodus Road.

Mr. Casner explained the function of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and stated that the Town would like the Redevelopment Agency to develop a plan that includes the Town's three commercial areas into a joint TIF district.

Mr. Casner reviewed the Town's tax incentive program, which was developed by EDC. He stated that any business owner that improves their property through either new construction or improvements to an existing building could be eligible for tax incentives. He recommended that anyone interested in learning more about the programs should contact any EDC member for the more details.

Mr. Casner also stated that EDC would like to see if the East Haddam business community would like to establish a Merchants Group to help promote business in East Haddam and again opened the floor for comments.

There was an extended general discussion on all the above items and, at the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Casner thanked the group for participating. The group thanked Mr. Casner for providing them with the opportunity to hold an informal discussion on the state of business in East Haddam.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/
Sharon Wheeler
Recording Secretary