

Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 308
Somers, Connecticut 06071
EDC Minutes

January 7, 2008

Selectmen's Conference Room

Call to Order

Chairman Lou Bachetti called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Attendance

Members present were Louis Bachetti, Ron Elliott, Richard Cheney, Maura Gardiner, David Reed and Robert Schmidt. Also in attendance for a portion of the meeting was Len Slaga from the Somers Housing Authority

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Richard Cheney and seconded by Maura Gardiner that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without change. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence

None

Len Slaga- Somers Housing Authority

Len Slaga, Chairman of the Somers Housing Authority, provided the commission with an overview of Woodcrest's current and future development plans. The presentation was extremely informative and included handouts of the organization structure and renderings of the proposed renovation and construction. Discussion followed with primary interest and concern relating to tying the project into a Village District Concept which would allow residences to have safe and convenient access to the local merchants and businesses. The EDC appreciated the comprehensive overview provided by Len and would like to formally thank him for his professional presentation.

Somers Business Association

Ron Elliott updated the group concerning the activities of the Somers business steering committee. The committee has scheduled a Business and Merchant Expo to be held on January 14, 2008 at the Somersville Grammar School. There will approximately 20 vendors displaying their goods and

services at the Expo. Communication concerning the Expo has been promoted via flyers and published articles in local papers.

Status of the of Somersville Mill

David Reed commented that he had met with the first selectman and that there was nothing new to report on the status of the mill. It appears that there is still confusion concerning the status of a potential new owner and that nothing has been filed with the town clerk conveying the property's ownership. After some discussion a motion was made by Maura Gardiner and seconded by David Reed that the commission meet with the selectmen and the town's attorney to discuss the issues and the town's strategy concerning the mill. Dave and Lou will meet with the first selectman to which they will then establish a date and time for the meeting to be held.

Somerville Streetscape Update

David Reed updated the commission that he had met with the first selectman concerning the status of this project. With the exception of receiving a \$200,000 STEAP grant nothing has moved forward on this project. There has been no work performed on an action plan and there have been no additional sources identified for funding although the first selectman had said a few months back that these items were being worked on by the consultant who was engaged for this project. Following some discussion a motion was made by Bob Schmidt and seconded by Maura Gardiner that the EDC recommend that a Somersville Streetscape Oversight Committee be established and that the Director of Public Works be assigned as liaison to the committee. The commission voted in favor of this resolution and also instructed the secretary of the commission to write a letter to the board of selectmen and request a meeting.

Updating EDC website

David Reed discussed the town's current website and the current link that the EDC has on the website. The EDC link is outdated and provides very little in the way of informative information. The commission requested David to remove old, outdated information and to include only basic information on the site. The commission is also to provide David with ideas as to what they would like to see on an EDC website or website link within two weeks of this meeting date.

Chairman updates

In The Chairman's absence, the Vice Chairman, David Reed, will be responsible for establishing the agenda and spearheading the meetings for February and March.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Maura Gardiner seconded by David Reed and was approved. The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald L. Elliott, Secretary for the EDC

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.