

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2009

Selectmen's Conference Room

Town Hall

Call to Order

The vice chairman, David Reed called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance

Members present were, Ron Elliott, Robert Schmidt, David Reed, Richard Cheney and Maura Gardiner. Louis Bachetti was absent.

Approval of Minutes

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

Correspondence

David Reed noted that the selectmen asked him if he would attend a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Metro Hartford Alliance. David agreed and learned that the Alliance had loan funds available to the towns for businesses seeking such loans, that scholarship funds were available to the towns for continuing education needs and that technical assistance, if needed is available to the towns.

Somersville Mill

David Reed stated that he had met with the first selectman concerning the establishment of LLC to control the development of the mill. It was noted that the current owner of the mill had recently introduced a prospective buyer of the property to various members of town hall to discuss due diligence issues. It was also mentioned that a tax lien against the current owner was recently filed.

Somersville Streetscape

David Reed reported that he will make a presentation to the selectmen to gain authorization approval for spending has been set for February 12, 2009. The presentation will include an overview of the entire project and a list of specifics of projects that will be undertaken initially with current funding levels available.

2009 Business Directory

Progress is proceeding on information gathering and soliciting advertisers. Positive feedback and additional advertising is being generated through the efforts of Jeanne Reed who is coordinating the project. Scheduled completion and distribution is targeted for early spring.

Way-Finders Signs

Bob Schmidt updated the group on the status of the project and provided insights on his discussion with various officials of state government within the DOT departments. Bob enlighten the group concerning outdoor ads off premise and will further discuss the issues surrounding placement, size and coloring on public vs. private land once he receives a copy of the rules and regulations from state officials. David Reed also agreed that he would contact the state's department of tourism to gather their interpretations and use of these rules and regulations on their wayfarers signage efforts.

EDC Business Newsletter

The first bi annual EDC business newsletter has been distributed to the business community thanks to the special efforts of Maura Gardiner, Rick Cheney and David Reed.

Economic Indicators

No formal update was available

EDC activities update

Rick Cheney informed the group that another business had approached him concerning hosting a business after hours function. As there is now a list of host businesses, discussion followed as to the frequency and timing of these meetings. It was tentatively agreed that the next EDC Business after Hours meeting will be held in April 2009.

Other business

David Reed updated the commission on activities and issues happening in the land use commissions, most notably the fact that they are being sued by Bob Smythe and that the On the Fly Computer Guy is applying for mixed use at their place of business.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Cheney, seconded by Maura Gardiner and was approved. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:37 p. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald L. Elliott, Secretary for the EDC

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.