

Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes- **Final/Approved**

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

David Dean, EDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PRESENT

Regular members Lee Losee, David Dean, Kay Carroll, Cleve Fuessenich, Doug Parker and Judy Elliott were present. Regular member Renee Betar was absent. Alternates Mitchell Fishman and Alexander VandenBerg were present. Alternate Pam Stockamore was absent.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Alexander VandenBerg was appointed for Renee Betar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cleve Fuessenich made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting as read. Lee Losee seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INTRODUCTION OF POTENTIAL ALTERNATE

William Conti was introduced by David Dean. He has expressed an interest in being an alternate on the EDC.

LITCHFIELD JAIL

Cleve Fuessenich reported that the feasibility study is underway. Kay Carroll reported it is a feasibility study for potential uses and very rough estimates of costs of those uses. An environmental study is not necessary at this time.

THOMASTON ROAD

No report.

MISSION STATEMENT

Kay Carroll located a copy of the original formation of the EDC and it is attached. The EDC is to send a summary of yearly activities to the Board of Finance once a year for inclusion in the annual town report. Best way to list business in town would be on a website. We need to look at what businesses are in town and what their concerns and problems are and see how we can assist them. Also need to assist new business with coming into town.

LITCHFIELD HILLS FOOD SYSTEMS

Kay Carroll reported that the market is going very well.

LITCHFIELD VISUAL ARTS

Pam Stockamore reported on the upcoming events for Litchfield Visual Arts. The first is the fundraiser the 2011 Art Grab. It will be held at the Litchfield Historical Society on June 17, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 pm. This will allow a scholarship to be awarded to a college student that is entering their junior or senior year of college with a major in art or related study. The next priority would be giving a stipend to a local Litchfield artist or artisan to use as needed. That would depend on the amount raised at the fundraiser.

The second event will be the 2nd annual artist exhibition to be held at the Litchfield Historical Society at a time to be determined. The exhibition will be on for approximately three months.

NW CT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Doug Parker reported that a planning grant is on hold for the NWEDC until the state passes its budget. The commission has been invited to a statewide EDC which should turn into a quarterly meeting.

CEDS

Nothing to report.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

On the Green, a new restaurant hopes to open April 1, 2011. China Rainbow located in the Village Green Drive complex will be open soon. Emily Claire's Dress Shop closed at the end of December 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Pam Stockamore noted that Governor Malloy is allocating funds for tourism and we should see if there is anything we can do to promote our existing businesses and the town. Jonathan Derwin is organizing a West Street Business Association to promote the businesses in the center of town. David Dean has put together a welcome packet for new EDC members with contact information for all members of EDC and minutes of past meetings, a current meeting schedule, copy of mission statement and an electronic copy of current CEDS.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2011 at the Litchfield Borough Hall on Russell Street at 7 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Kay Carroll made a motion to adjourn. Cleve Fuessenich seconded it. It passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Elliott, Secretary
Economic Development Commission
David E. Dean, Chr.