

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
January 21, 2010

Members present were: Blunt White, John Delmhorst, Dan Oliverio, Gary Bennett, Paul Burgess, Ed Hart, Ed Planeta, and Wendy Bury. Absent were: Ed Dear and Dan Barber.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

The minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Chairman White reported that Wendy Bury is now a full member of the commission filling the slot of Tony Lee who had resigned. Dan Barber is now an alternate member of the commission. Chairman White is looking for additional members and would like to have a representative of tourism on the commission. He has contacted the heads of the Seaport and the Aquarium for suggestions. Gary Bennett suggested Chris Freeman from the Seaport and Chairman White mentioned Sue Funk of the Seaport as well.

Old Business:

Wendy Bury reported there is no significant change on the new EDC website; the developer has been asked to have certain tasks done within two weeks. The real estate inventory portion was discussed; this involves work for updates and additional cost. It is possible to have a link to another website which has the MLS list for Stonington. The next commission meeting, February 18, 2010, will be a special meeting at the LaGrua Center to illustrate updates and revisions to the website.

As noted in the newspaper, the PZC denied the application for development of the Perkins Farm property. Ed Hart restated his concern that increased planning needs to be done by the Town on large parcels of land prior to application before PZC. A new Plan of Conservation and Development needs to be done in a few years and money has begun to be allocated for that project.

The sub-committee working on signage regulations has had several meeting with good attendance from business owners. With their input, a list of problems and solutions is being prepared. There is a need for clear communication in any revised signage regulations. It was noted that correcting these regulations was better than attracting new developers, due to the state of the economy.

The status of the SEAT route 10 buses was discussed. Ridership continues to be minimal and it is unclear whether the service will be extended past the end of March. If service is continued, the commission is willing to fund additional brochures to promote the service.

Selectman Haberek offered some updates on town real estate/business concerns:

The store fronts next to the new Stop and Shop are to contain a diagnostic center for L&M hospital; an application has been made to PZC.

There has been some movement on the former Stop and Shop location which would involve splitting the space into 5,000 square feet of retail space and 5,000 square feet for a service business.

POKO, developers of the Thread Mill project have completed their surveying task and interior work is scheduled to begin in February.

The Grain Mill property is being marketed as a storage facility.

The McQuade Pharmacy in the Downtown Creamery building did not succeed and is now vacant. It is to be replaced by a martial arts academy.

A 6- family residence at 68 Mechanic Street is possibly scheduled for demolition; the building has been in disrepair for some time.

A new Dunkin Donuts planned for Liberty Street has an application for a drive thru.

Tractor Supply Company has an application to build next to La Quinta Inn on Route 2; this could involve a public information session with EDC.

There is interest from a large retailer for development of the Maple Breeze property on Route 2; one problem is that the plan includes a gas station and there is an aquifer problem.

There has been no change in status of the Stillman Avenue mill.

The owners of the Velvet Mill have stated they are planning improvements to the building to attract additional tenants.

The Oliver Group is moving from Greenhaven Road to the former Hubbell building on Lords Hill Road; they are taking 20,000 square feet and there are about 40,000 still available.

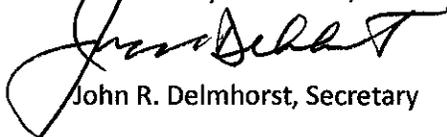
The former Mystic Color Lab property has been foreclosed on by the financing bank. An attempt is being made to sell the property.

New Business:

Paul Burgess reported on a voluntary cleanup arranged by Pfizer with DEP for the Pfizer Farm property on Taugwonk Road. There have been various activities on the property since the 1970s and some residual cyanide has affected some well water. Specified material is to be removed from one area of the property followed by monitoring of water quality. Pfizer is free to sell the property, if it so desires, provided the monitoring continues.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Delmhorst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John R. Delmhorst, Secretary