

REGULAR MEETING

Joint Town Center Revitalization Committee and Economic Development Commission
Economic Development Commission
Town Center Revitalization Committee

Tuesday, September 28, 2010
Mulvey Municipal Center

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Marilyn Ozols, Chair.

ATTENDING: Marilyn Ozols, Jim Crawford, Darlene Briggs, Noel Bishop, Deb Rie, Libby Waldron, and Meg Parulis. Sylvia Guinan arrived at 7:40 p.m.

CURRENT ISSUES

Adopt a Spot

Ms. Rie updated the Commission on the progress of the program. Thus far, 8 spots have adopted supported by 18 volunteers (Vista and Town Hall Staff). Currently, 5 signs have been installed. Mr. Bishop will request \$200 in “seed money” to purchase additional signage.

Ms. Rie distributed a copy of the Westbrook Foundation Grant Application that has been reviewed by Ms. Parulis. This application will be submitted with attachments (program guidelines, location of spots, photos, flyer, new paper articles highlighting the program etc.)

If approved, funds from the grant will be used to purchase signs, safety cones and vests.

The Committee briefly discussed appropriate mechanisms needed to receive funding (i.e. bank accounts, general fund).

Ms. Rie reported that she attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on September 28, 2010 to promote the program. Ms. Waldron commented that Sarah Inc. has committed to maintaining the area located outside of the Senior Center.

Ms. Briggs made a motion to support the Adopt a Spot Grant application to the Westbrook Foundation. Ms. Rie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Portable Toilets on Town Green

As reported at the last meeting, this issue will be discussed with the appropriate personnel, Rich Annino and John Riggio early in the budget process to ensure funding is sufficient for an upgraded facility.

Scout Projects

The Scout Project Guidelines have been approved by the BOS.

Bench Donation Program

Ms. Parulis reported that she has discussed the necessary pads with John Riggio. She will follow up on the 2 benches that have not yet arrived.

Tree Maintenance

Mr. Bishop reported that John Riggio is scheduled to take a course on Tree Maintenance at the University of Connecticut.

Town Center Parking/STEAP Grant

Ms. Parulis reported that no announcement has yet been made regarding STEAP Grant awards.

Events Board/Rte 1 & 153 Welcome Signs/Highway Exit Director Sign

Mr. Crawford reported that there is an issue with the hinges and the Plexiglas on the Events Board sign located at the Riggio Building. He will follow up with Lighthouse Signs.

The Commission was unimpressed with the work of Lighthouse Signs and may pursue another contractor for the additional signage.

Town and State Garage Swap/Train Station

Currently, the paperwork regarding the property “swap” is at the Attorney General’s office. The Town has signed all of the necessary documents to date and is waiting for the State to finalize the deal.

Mr. Bishop reported that he has discussed the dog shelter with Mr. Marino. There was some discussion about the possibility of sharing a shelter with Old Lyme; however this option was cost prohibitive. The Animal Control Officer has offered some less expensive alternatives which will be discussed with Tony Marino.

Cusson Property

Ms. Parulis reported that a meeting has been scheduled with Mr. Cusson for Wednesday, September 29, 2010.

Mr. Crawford commented that Mr. Cusson recently purchased Ritt’s Marina.

UPDATE ON NEW DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS – Town Planner

Ms. Parulis reported that the Lorenson Toyota dealership is scheduled to open in November.

Water’s Edge is awaiting building permits to begin work on their “Villas”. The project is currently in front of Zoning. There is a retaining wall issue to be addressed.

The Lee Co. has requested an extension of the light industrial district at their Pettipaug Road facility. This request is currently being addressed by Planning.

The General Store has closed.

A proposal for an Arcade was not accepted by the ZBA as they did not meet the hardship requirement. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of amending the regulations to allow such a facility under certain conditions. Ms. Parulis will discuss options with the applicant.

MINUTES

Ms. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2010 meeting. Ms. Guinan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Please note, page 3 of minutes, under “Events Boards/Routes 1 and 153 Welcome Signs” – Mr. Crawford discussed the \$2,200 bill from Lighthouse Signs with Ms. Jones, Town Treasurer. She advised that a “phone survey” of the EDC members would be sufficient for payment of this bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Briggs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski