



Town of Griswold



28 Main Street
Griswold, CT 06351
Phone (860) 376-7060, Fax (860) 376-7070

**GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
GRISWOLD TOWN HALL**

**APPROVED MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2016**

I. REGULAR MEETING (7:00 P.M.)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Thomas Giard, Jr. called this regular meeting of the Griswold Economic Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Thomas Giard, Jr., Paul Lach, Charlotte Geer, James W. Barnie, Ken Bousquet
Town Planner Mario J. Tristany.

Absent: Recording Secretary Donna Szall

3. Determination of Quorum

T. Giard stated that there was a quorum for this regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of meeting minutes of July 20, 2016

T. Giard asked for any corrections or omissions on the minutes. J. Barnie stated there is a correction to Item 5 it reads wi9th; should read with; Section C reads T. Giard to K. Sullivan about; he stated that there is something missing. T. Giard stated that it should read spoke with K. Sullivan. J. Barnie stated in Item D it reads cone and should read done. T. Giard asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended with the corrections.

MOTION: P. Lach moved to approve the minutes as amended for July 20, 2016. C. Geer seconded the motion. There were three aye votes and one abstention by J. Barnie. The motion was carried.

T. Giard stated to let the record show that K. Bousquet has arrived.

5. Public Comment

T. Giard stated for the record that there was no one present to make public comment. T. Giard closed the public comment.

6. Matters Presented for Consideration

A. Continuation of review of potential zoning impediments to economic development

T. Giard stated that he did not have any new ones. C. Geer stated that there a lot of micro breweries popping up everywhere and the zoning regulations do not allow for distilleries; she stated that it would be nice to have a discussion to see if it would be a boost to our local economy. She proposed to look at the zoning regulations regarding distilleries and to change the regulations to allow micro breweries in the town. P. Lach stated that they attract a higher end clientele.

P. Lach stated that we have to look into allowing tents for the food trucks. He stated that the food truck by the hotel is out of business. M. Tristany stated that there is a public hearing next month for Section 7.5 which is the food vending section. There was discussion of this matter.

J. Barnie stated that he is on the code review committee and that he has stated there that the town needs to simplify things to do what needs to be done for people in town. P. Lach stated that we need to help the little guy as well as big business and to keep it in the back of our minds. T. Giard stated that M. Tristany will look at this.

B. Discussion of the Borough minutes to identify economic development.

There were no Borough minutes.

C. Discussion regarding the sale of municipally-owned properties.

T. Giard stated that the BOS took the School Street property off of the For Sale list. J. Barnie stated that he fought long and hard for that to happen. T. Giard stated that that Kent & Frost is working on a concept design for this park called Heritage River Park with a food truck pad, picnic tables, a green passive area, a handicapped fishing platform; and there will be a footbridge to link School Street via Burleson Avenue to the Veterans Memorial Park activities. J. Barnie asked if this will be incorporated into the River Walk. T. Giard stated yes and he explained that there may not be a direct walk to Slater Avenue where the electric light plant is located due to insurance issues. He stated that the upside to having people walking a short distance-on Main Street from School Street; but it will still be a part of the river walk to get funding. He stated that Public Works will clean up and level off the School Street proposed park area in the next few weeks in preparation for Bike Night in September for bike parking. T. Giard stated that there is a passive open space fund of about \$85,000 to start the Heritage Park project. J. Barnie asked if it was Ryan Aubin's money. T. Giard stated that Ryan Aubin will be responsible for the Heritage River Park when it is done. There was discussion of this matter. T. Giard asked M. Tristany if he heard from Kent & Frost. M. Tristany stated no; he will contact them tomorrow; Kent & Frost will come in with a conceptual plan.

D. Discussion and update of Main Street lighting project.

M. Tristany stated CTDOT finally signed off on the project bid specifications and were posted in the Bulletin and the DAS portal; the pre-bid meeting is on August 22 at 10 am and the Bids are due September 7. T. Giard asked if the poles were in. M. Tristany stated that we purchased the 25 light fixtures, 37 double banner arms and flag holders that match the architecture of the historic lighting. There was discussion of this matter including taking the lights down towards the Heritage River Park and Veterans Memorial Park for the future even. P. Lach stated that there should be fund raisers to help with the Heritage River Park. T. Giard asked P. Lach to attend a meeting Wednesday and suggested coming up with ideas for fund raising efforts.

T. Giard gave an update Sunflower Capital of New England as a long term goal. He stated that Ryan Aubin was tasked to purchase the domain name. He explained that he went to Merrill Signs and he showed a concept banner 18 inches by 36 inches, double sided, and that the banner will be staggered on poles on both sides of the street; 18 banners saying Welcome, Sunflower Capital showing Sunflowers. There was discussion of this matter. M. Tristany stated that there should be some showing the Heritage River logo. T. Giard asked the commission to decide to use \$1,500 to purchase these banners. There was discussion of this matter including a removal business name banner. T. Giard asked for a motion.

MOTION: J. Barnie moved to appropriate approximately \$1500 for the purchase of sun flower-themed banners for Main Street. C. Geer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried. . K. Bousquet asked what the banners material will be. M. Tristany explained that they will be vinyl. K.

Bousquet stated that you can get them in material that will withstand the wind with mesh or flaps. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard stated that the Sunflower Capital concept has the support from Buttonwood Farms and that it will run concurrently with their annual nine day event; he explained that that Buttonwood Farms is maxed out for parking; he stated that we can offer to run an off-site festival in town during the Buttonwood event with advertising and shuttling service from Buttonwood Farm and back to the festival in town. There was discussion of this matter.

E. Discussion and update of the Creative Arts & Culture Commission

P. Lach stated that they are hoping to have a meeting on August 27. He stated that E. Bevin has an Idea for Griswold's Got Talent and also get a movie company to come into town.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Other Matters

T. Giard stated that the Route 164 project is moving along and an engineering and architectural firm has been hired. He asked the commission to think about creating a list of ideas for this project for the next meeting. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard asked M. Tristany about the solar farm. M. Tristany explained that he believes that they got their final approvals from the CT Siting Counsel and the solar farm must submit certain documents to the Siting Counsel and to the Town. There was discussion of this matter including that they have three years to build it out near the Chinigo properties on Voluntown Road and Route 201.

9. Adjournment

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: C. Geer moved to adjourn. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario J. Tristany, Jr.