



Town of Griswold



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

**APPROVED MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 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, 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 August 17, 2016

T. Giard asked for any corrections or omissions on the minutes. J. Barnie stated there is a correction to page 2, it reads P. Lach ach; should remove ach; and at bottom of page paragraph 8 reads the, should read they. T. Giard asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended with the corrections.

MOTION: J. Barnie moved to approve the minutes as amended for August 17 2016. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

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

M. Tristany stated that he was going through the regulations. He explained that a text amendment was required regarding the Route 164 project. There was discussion of this matter. T. Giard stated that we will go to Planning and Zoning with this text change.

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

There were no Borough minutes.

C. Discussion of update of 32 School Street.

M. Tristany handed out a site plan by Kent and Frost showing the final layout of the Heritage Park site. He explained that there are 28 parking spaces and two handicapped spaces and another 3 handicapped spaces near the proposed playground area which is also a handicapped accessible play scape and there will be a carousel pavilion.

K. Bousquet arrived at 7:10 p.m.

T. Giard stated that the area is gently sloping so that any grading needed for the site plan can be done by the Town's DPW. He stated that there will be a handicapped accessible fishing pier. There will be a restroom area located at the parking lot. He stated that there will be a permanent performing arts area having a cement pad with power near the water.

P. Lach stated that the idea of fundraising for monies for some of the projects proposed for the Heritage Park had been rejected. T. Giard asked P. Lach to attend a Wednesday meeting with some ideas for fundraising. T. Giard stated that the Open Space fund was available for some of the work to be done for this park. There was discussion of this matter including that DEEP funds may be obtained for the handicapped-accessible fishing pier.

C. Discussion and update of Main Street lighting project.

M. Tristany stated Prime Electric is putting the permanent pavement where the lights have already been installed. He stated that the additional lightings will be installed by October 5. P. Lach asked if there will be a lighting ceremony. M. Tristany stated that K. Skulczyck was thinking about holding a lighting ceremony.

M. Tristany explained that there were four contractors who came to the bid meeting and only one bid was actually received submitted by Prime Electric. 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.

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

P. Lach stated that they had a meeting in September and that the Commission is planning to have a Griswold's Got Talent that will be open to all comers. He stated that there will be an event "Come Together" with a Beatles Tribute Band at the Veterans Park on October 8 at 4 pm.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Other Matters

T. Giard stated that the Banners were ordered on September 22. J. Bernie asked if he had a sample of the banners. T. Giard stated no; but that there was a two week turn-over to received the banners. He stated that there could be seasonal banners as well as for sunflowers.

P. Lach stated that there were some details for the Route 164 project and that it was confidential. He stated that he read about it on Facebook, when the members had been in the dark on this. T. Giard stated that he has been in touch with the developer regarding this Route 164 site and the funding is in position to go forward. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard stated that R. Aubin is working on the sunflower domain. There was discussion of this matter.

P. Lach asked if there was anything happening with the old nursing home site. M. Tristany stated no; but that the owner purchased the adjoining property for more street frontage for that site to entice a developer to that site.

J. Barnie stated that Change Wind has been in touch with the town again and something will happen there. M. Tristany stated that they have funding to begin this operation the first of the year. M. Tristany stated that some equipment has been brought in to their location. T. Giard stated that he will begin hiring after the first of the year. M. Tristany stated that he wanted a demo wind turbine out on the concrete piers at the power plant. There was discussion of this matter.

J. Barnie asked M. Tristany about the solar farm. M. Tristany explained that this project will be starting in the spring. He stated that first 3 megawatt system will go on the site east of Latham Drive. P. Lach asked if it will be sold back to the grid. M. Tristany stated yes. T. Giard stated that it is 250K tax revenue.

First Selectman K. Skulczyck arrived at 7:35 p.m.

J. Barnie asked about UCFS. K. Skulczyck stated that UCFS had to bring some material back on to the site and waiting for a final report and when that is received there will be closing on the East Main Street site possibly in November.

K. Skulczyck asked for a date for the lights. M. Tristany stated that the lights will be up by October 5. T. Giard stated that the sidewalk curbing in place for the alley way. K. Skulczyck stated the alley way is closed that the owner of the Bakery Building has agreed to close off the alley way so it will be a safer location. He stated that some kinds of barriers need to go up. There was discussion of this matter.

J. Barnie asked if funding will be requested for the Route 164 project. M. Tristany stated that we need all of the hard engineering figures for any funding. There was discussion of this matter including funding for this good revenue source.

J. Barnie stated that there is potential for running lighting to the Heritage Park and Ashland Street. He asked if the taps should be added at this time. M. Tristany stated that those can be powered from the other end for the lighting. He explained that there is one "dusk to dawn" electric eye sensor. There was discussion of this matter.

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 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall
Recording Secretary