



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**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Giard called the regular meeting of the Griswold Economic Development Commission (EDC) to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chm. Thomas Giard, Jr., Paul Latch, Charlotte Geer, James Barnie, Ken Bousquet, Town Planner Mario J. Tristany Jr.

3. Determination of Quorum

Chairman Giard stated that there was a quorum present for the EDC regular meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Giard asked for any corrections or omissions for the August 16, 2017 Regular EDC minutes. J. Barnie made a motion, seconded by P. Latch to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Chairman Giard noted for the record that there was no public present.

6. Matters Presented for Consideration

A. Main Street Mural Project Update.

Chairman Giard gave an update on the Jewett City Main Street Mural Project as follows:

- The Mural Painter Faith Wibberly has put Chm. Giard in touch with Wendy Barry who is involved with an Eastern Connecticut Arts Organization.
- The Eastern Connecticut Arts Organization is apparently looking for a "Shovel Ready" Arts project that will serve as the organizations first Arts Project, and our Main Street Mural Program is being considered for their first project.
- Chm. Giard mentioned that both Faith and Wendy will be at the October 18, 2017 EDC meeting to highlight the positive economic benefits and impacts on communities that have initiated a Main Street Mural Program. Chm. Giard further noted that local Business Organizations will be notified of the scheduled meeting.

- Ch. Giard stated that Wendy can also help the EDC Commission with locating potential funding sources to underwrite the cost of the Mural Project.
- A general discussion took place regarding the possibility of turning the defunct Jewett City Theater building into a combination museum / arts exhibit.
- Chm. Giard also proposed the possibility of also placing sand sculptures in the downtown area that reflect the Sunflower Theme.

B. Heritage River Village (H.R.V.) Project Route 164 update.

- Chm. Giard noted that the H.R.V. project is at its crucial funding stage. Local project approvals are in place and the traffic portion of the project is currently being reviewed by the State Traffic Authority. This review process will take approximately six to eight weeks to complete.
- Chm. Giard further noted that the Town of Griswold is gearing up to prepare and file an urban Act Grant application with the State. The purpose of the grant is to fund the extension of the much needed infrastructure (Water and sanitary sewer) to the properties along the Route 164 Corridor. The possibility may also exist to run a natural gas line to the subject properties as well.
- Chm. Giard stated that the Urban Act Grant is an extremely important application and asked the EDC Commission to recommend to the Griswold Board of Selectmen to support the filing of the Urban Act grant for infrastructure improvements along the Route 164 area.
- J. Barnie suggested that the term “infrastructure” should be used to describe the project as opposed to the individual utilities.
- Chm. Giard commented that the H.R.V. project has the support of several groups that are seriously interested in becoming a part of the subject project. Groups such as the Day Kimball Hospital, Eastern CT Board of Realtors as examples.
- P. Latch made a motion to support the Urban Act Grant application for infrastructure improvements for the Route 164 Corridor, and to further recommend to the Griswold Board of Selectmen that they support the filing of the application. The motion was seconded by J. Barnie and unanimously approved by the EDC.

C. Route 164 Property Owners meeting held on August 22, 2017.

- Chm. Giard noted that on August 22, 2017 Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman put together the Route 164 Property Owners meeting in order to bring the major property owners up to date on the Heritage River Village Project and to also ascertain if any of the property owners are actively marketing their respective properties.
- Chm. Giard noted that surprisingly none of the Route 164 property owners are actively marketing their properties.
- C. Geer stated that that the property owners are waiting for something “big” to happen before they put their properties on the market.

- A general discussion took place as to the potential types of development that could locate within the Route 164 Commercial Corridor.
- Town Planner M. Tristany noted that there seemed to be a positive interest in the extension of water and sanitary mains along Route 164.

7. Correspondence

A. Memo dated August 28, 2017 from Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk, requesting 2018 Schedule of Meetings from all Boards and Commissions.

- Town Planner M. Tristany stated that the town clerk annually requests for a schedule of meeting dates for all Griswold boards and commissions.
- C. Geer made a motion, seconded by K. Bousquet to approve the EDC 2018 Schedule of Meetings as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. CT Federation of Planning and Zoning Agencies Quarterly News Letter, Summer 2017 Volume XXI, Issue 3

- Town Planner M. Tristany stated that no action was required on this matter. It has been included on the EDC agenda for informational purposes.

8. Other Matters

- Chm. Giard gave a brief presentation and update on the Pachaug Pond Weed Control Project. Chm. Giard referenced several fund raising events that the Pachaug Pond group has held namely a golf event, a huge yard sale and an upcoming October membership drive. Chm. Giard noted that an individual does not have to be a Pachaug Pond property owner to join the group.
- Chm. Giard talked about the various weed control measures that are currently available which are chemical treatment, physical harvesting of the weeds and weed eating carp.
- Chm. Giard noted that a Pond Weed Study is currently under way and an aerial drone video is in the process of being prepared that shows the extensive weed problem at the Pachaug Pond.

9. Adjournment

J. Barnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. C. Geer seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mario J. Tristany Jr.
Griswold Town Planner