



Town of Griswold



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GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2009

GRISWOLD TOWN HALL

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., Vice Chairman Melvin Jetmore Paul Lach, Matthew Baber, Town Planner Carl Fontneau, and Recording Secretary Donna Szall.

Absent: Chris Hargus

3. Determination of Quorum

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

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 19, 2008

T. Giard asked for any corrections or omission to the minutes. P. Lach made a motion to accept the minutes. T. Giard seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Matters Presented for Consideration

A. Garnet Consulting Services status report.

Mark Waterhouse and Leslie Cosgrove from Garnet Consulting Services were present to give an update to the commission.

L. Cosgrove discussed the Griswold Business Incentive Policy explaining the Connecticut statutes that support the town of Griswold to enter into agreements with owners/lessees of certain to fix or defer tax assessments on real property for a certain period of time which is because Griswold is part of the Eastern Connecticut Enterprise Corridor. There was discussion of this matter.

L. Cosgrove discussed the personal property schedule regarding machinery and equipment, inventory and raw materials. T. Giard stated that this should be identified regarding the personal incentives on property. L. Cosgrove explained that the descriptions are in the state statutes. There was discussion of this matter to include the types on the form to make it easier for prospective business to identify.

M. Waterhouse explained the CGS 12-81(t) for fixed assessment and information to help communities attract Information Technology companies and that there should be a definition.

L. Cosgrove explained that the building fees can be waived upon recommendation by the Economic Development. T. Giard stated that the fees are waived by the Board of Selectmen. There was discussion of this matter. C. Fontneau stated that the BOS will direct the building official to waive fees based on a favorable recommendation by the EDC.

L. Cosgrove explained the Griswold Business Incentive Policy Application form that would provide detailed information from the company and that if it is done by a lessee then a letter would be needed from the property owner. T. Giard stated that the EDC should review this information provided by Garnet and to bring back comments to C. Fontneau.

M. Jetmore stated that he has promoted a façade program for the town and he did not see this in this document. L. Cosgrove stated that they were not asked to look into façade programs. C. Fontneau stated that façade programs were part of the MDP. There was discussion of this matter.

L. Cosgrove explained the business survey that would be sent to about 10 businesses in town that have worked with the various commissions and boards. Matt Baber asked if the survey was the final approved format. L. Cosgrove stated that this will go through the e-mail. M. Waterhouse stated that each company will be identified. He stated that they are looking for input from the EDC. There was discussion of this matter including it be like a check off form and only a few questions to be answered in written form.

T. Giard asked for other comments. M. Waterhouse stated that the brochure is in a rough draft. M. Jetmore stated that more attractions such as the golf course and state forest be added. M. Waterhouse stated that those were irrelevant to attracting business. L. Cosgrove explained the contents of the brochure. There was discussion of this matter including that some history of the Slater Library be included in the brochure.

T. Giard asked the EDC members to put down their ideas for the brochure. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard thanked L. Cosgrove and M. Waterhouse for their presentation.

B. Status of Draft #3 of Municipal Development Plan

T. Giard asked C. Fontneau to give an update on the MDP. C. Fontneau explained that this is Draft 3 and that a letter from Peter Simmons from the state was received and that the plan does not have any specific projects. T. Giard asked if there was a specific project would the state be more in favor of this. M. Jetmore asked if they wanted something that was shovel ready. C. Fontneau stated no. There was discussion of IGW meeting with the DPU for self-generation, help with electric rates, extended terms for tax incentives, reconstruction of Railroad Avenue to encourage warehousing and development of the site.

M. Jetmore suggested that city-owned property be developed. C. Fontneau asked Phil Anthony to get business together for a façade program so funding can be obtained from somewhere other than the MDP.

T. Giard stated that a list be sent to TPA. C. Fontneau stated that the EDC would send a list to the DECD for six project. There as discussion of this matter including the veterans' housing.

T. Giard asked the EDC members give their ideas to C. Fontneau.

C. Fontneau stated that 1/4 of funds can be used for Phase III for the TWC to develop a residential use.

C. Discussion and input of EDC to changes in Zoning Map.

C. Fontneau stated that there are draft zoning maps showing more commercial sights at exist 86 and TWC area to an R-40 zone. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard asked about the Polinsky property. C. Fontneau explained that the property is in a management area and that he did not propose any changes there. There was discussion of this matter.

M. Jetmore asked if there were changes on Route 138. C. Fontneau stated that there are current changes to commercial on Route 138. He stated that there is no business park proposed. He explained that some properties on Route 12 were changed from an R-60 to a C-2 zone. M. Jetmore asked if American Industries was an industrial zone. C. Fontneau stated it is in a C-2 zone.

D. Input for areas of future extension of water and sewer.

C. Fontneau explained that the Sewer Authority and Ken Sullivan that the map reflects the existing sewer and future desired sewer area. He stated that the JC water company is not as cooperative. He explained that the changes will be incorporated into the State PoCD for the classifications of land for future funding.

M. Jetmore stated that because of the Water Company other projects such as Stotts and the projects near Americinn didn't get off the ground. There was discussion of this matter.

E. Other items of interest.

T. Giard asked for a motion to accept the dates of the Schedule of Meetings for 2009. M. Jetmore so moved. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

T. Giard asked for other items. There were no other items.

7. Adjournment

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn. M. Jetmore made a motion to adjourn. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall
Recording Secretary