



Town of Griswold



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

**GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

MARCH 18, 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 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Thomas Giard, Jr., Paul Lach, Matthew Baber, Town Planner Carl Fontneau, and Recording Secretary Donna Szall.

Absent: Vice Chairman Melvin Jetmore, 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 January 21, 2009

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

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6. Workshop

A. Commission contribution to recent Garnet Consulting Services draft products.

T. Giard asked that Leslie Cosgrove to explained the changes to the business brochure that will be used to attract businesses to the town. T. Giard stated that he was concerned that there should be more text in bullet form as well as photographs of town businesses such as Drive-in Self Storage and Geer Sand and Gravel. Norman Higgins, town resident, suggested Four Brothers shop. C. Fontneau suggested aerial photographs of Wyre Wynd and Triangle PWC.

T. Giard suggested thumbnail sized photographs of these business to be place on the inside center panel.

T. Giard stated that references to manufacturing should be changed in the Business Incentive section and in the town government section. He thought that the brochure should state that the town is open to more diverse businesses. There was discussion of this matter.

M. Baber stated that the brochure should catch a businesses' attention in 10 seconds. P. Lach stated that there should be more buzz words to that they can be googled. There was discussion of this matter.

N. Higgins stated that the Coast Guard Academy should be listed in the Higher Education area. He stated that for some businesses, they need more roof-tops. M. Baber stated that the key was to attracting customers. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard suggested a photograph of the sewer plant and a bullet of its capacity to attract businesses. L. Cosgrove will make the suggested changes to the brochure and e-mail it to C. Fontneau.

Leslie Cosgrove explained the changes to the Draft of the Griswold Business Incentive Policy such as definitions of real and personal property and information technology. T. Giard stated that there was a typo regarding private non-profit business and should be for-profit. She will make the typo change from private non-profit to private for profit business in Qualifying section.

L. Cosgrove suggested that this business Incentive policy draft go the BOS and the P & Z for their review. She explained that this policy should be in place before attracting business to town. T. Giard stated that in the Eligible Projects, there was reference to residential projects. L. Cosgrove explained that the state allows for converting to housing. T. Giard stated that this should be removed from the policy. He stated that the policy needs to be in place before the brochure. He stated that the members should review this policy and return their suggestions by 3/27/ to C. Fontneau. There was discussion of this matter.

L. Cosgrove stated that Mark James will look at the website and wanted to have a meeting with the EDC to review and analyze the site to be more competitive. There was discussion of this matter. C. Fontneau stated that this could be done at the April meeting.

B. Priority list for Draft # 3 of the Municipal Development Plan

C. Fontneau explained the revised draft letter for the 6 item priority list. There was discussion of this matter.

C. Fontneau stated that the Triangle property by Brodeur Oil may be owned by the town. T. Giard asked the square footage. C. Fontneau thought it was 30,000 or 40, 000 sq. ft. T. Giard asked if the St. Mary Project could be first priority rather than second. C. Fontneau stated that residential has a different weight. C. Fontneau explained the Downtown action area, the Wyre Wynd action area, the Slate Mill Mall action area. T. Giard asked the members to review the MDP and give their comments to C. Fontneau by 3/27.

C. Interest in CBI workshop series

C. Fontneau explained the CBI workshop series and asked who would be interested in attending. He explained that the members of the EDC are now members of CEDAS and that there are crash courses being offered. There was discussion of this matter. P. Lach and M. Baber were interested in attending the crash courses that were available. T. Giard asked C. Fontneau to make arrangements for those members to take those courses.

T. Giard asked if there was any other business. There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn. M. Baber made a motion to adjourn. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall
Recording Secretary