



Town of Griswold



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GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009
GRISWOLD TOWN HALL-FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM
28 MAIN STREET, JEWETT CITY, CT 06351

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order

Thomas Giard, Chairman, called this regular meeting to order at 8:05. Previous to this action (from 7:30 P.M to 8:00 P.M) the EDC members present, staff, Garnet Consulting Services staff, and Bert Sacco from TPA Design Group listened to an internet presentation relating to website design for EDC function and an evaluation of the current Griswold website design from a Garnet Consulting Services subconsultant Mark James. This presentation was conducted in the Town Planner office because of a failure in the internet connection in the first floor meeting room. Tape was not available but written minutes of this presentation are provided to follow.

2. Roll Call

EDC members Lach, and Jetmore as well as Chairman Giard were present. Additionally, Town Planner Fontneau, Garnet Consulting Services staff Mark Waterhouse and Leslie Cosgrove, and TPA Design Group principal Bert Sacco were present.

3. Determination of Quorum

Chairman Giard stated that there was a quorum present to conduct business

4. Approval of Minutes

Lach MOVED, SECONDED by Giard to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

5. Workshop

5A. Garnet Consulting Services status report: The first item in this report was an internet based presentation by subconsultant to Garnet Consulting Services Mark James who presented a summary of the major points of his 42-page report on evaluation of the present Town of Griswold website and recommendations to make this website or a future redesigned website better for economic development purposes. So that towns or possible project parcels have desired information available electronically for immediate consideration on a site consultant friendly several possible improvements were discussed by Mark James and illustrated by visiting some other economic development friendly website across the country. James also pointed out some of the very good features already built into the existing town site. Details of the suggested new features to make a website more appropriate for economic development purposes were included in the larger report summarized in this electronic workshop and to be sent to EDC members shortly.

A second item in the Garnet Consulting Services related to a final draft of a Griswold Business Incentive Policy document. Some of the minor changes that had been made since the last meeting were discussed. By consensus, the EDC members suggested that the draft statements were clear enough to pass along to the Board of Selectmen with a letter requesting that they consider implementing the incentive policies that they felt appropriate for Griswold.

A third item involving some additional changes in the draft brochure for economic development purposes. Leslie Cosgrove explained some of the changes that she had recently implemented and promised to send an updated version to staff for inclusion in the next meeting (May 20, 2009) agenda package.

A previously prepared business survey was discussed briefly to send to local businesses to provide valuable input to EDC. EDC members also briefly discussed the possibility of advertising based brochures or pamphlets for Griswold as a way to generate funds for better economic development materials.

5B. Priority List for Draft#3 of Municipal Development Plan: A draft letter to DECD modified for the April 15 EDC meeting was discussed briefly by members, staff and TPA Design Group principal Bert Sacco. There was consensus with the order of project priorities and the conceptual content. Sacco emphasized the need for estimates of present property values at Triangle parcels, estimates of costs of remediation, and final land values that would result for possible developers. The unknown costs in possible projects at Triangle need to be estimated or identified earlier so both developers and possible funding sources available through DECD and this MDP document know what gap in funding needs to be filled. EDC members directed staff to provide this letter to Peter Simmons of DECD for his comments as soon as possible.

5C. Status of Development in Town and Borough: Town Planner reported about a few projects that had already been approved and appeared to be progressing slowly. He and the First Selectman would make a presentation before the Griswold Chamber of Commerce on April 17, 2009 summarizing more substantially the increments of progress relating to economic development. Staff would include this handout in next meeting agenda package.

5D. Other Topics as Presented: None were discussed.

Adjournment: Jetmore MOVED, SECONDED by Lach, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 P.M. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl S. Fontneau, Town Planner