



Town of Griswold



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

**APPROVED MINUTES
MAY 18, 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, Ken Bousquet, Town Planner Mario J. Tristany and Recording Secretary Donna Szall

Absent: James W. Barnie

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 the Special Meeting of April 13, 2016

T. Giard asked for any corrections or omissions on the minutes.

MOTION: K. Bousquet moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2016. P. Lach seconded the motion. There were 3 aye votes; 1 abstention from C. Geer. The motion was carried.

5. Public Comment

T. Giard stated for the record that there was no one present to make public comment. He closed public comment.

6. Matters Presented for Consideration

A. Continuation of review of potential zoning impediments to economic development

T. Giard stated that this will be an ongoing item for our agendas. He stated that there has been no appeal to challenge the approval of the C1 and C2 zones. M. Tristany stated no. He submitted a copy of the new Zoning Map showing the C – Commercial Zone change. T. Giard stated that it was a beneficial effort by EDC to tighten up things and everything is under one classification and does away with zone changes and will save the developer money.

T. Giard asked if anyone had any impediments to zoning that they wanted to see changed. M. Tristany stated that he as a few and he will have more information for next month's meeting.

M. Tristany explained that East Coast Sales will bring their building architectural designs before the June 13, 2016 P & Z meeting this was one of the conditions of approval since the design was not part of the

approval. He stated the P & Z regulations have architectural design standards for the zone. He stated that this public hearing will be advertised. M. Tristany stated that did not see a problem with the designs and that this will be a public hearing at the June 13, 2016 P & Z meeting at 6:30 p.m. There was discussion of this matter.

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

T. Giard stated that he did not see any discussion regarding economic development; but that they mentioned the municipal parking. T. Giard gave an explained that the BOS voted against this agreement for the municipal lot. P. Lach asked if anyone had approached the church for parking. T. Giard stated that the church was concerned that the parking would not be available when they needed parking because of church services, and other church activities. T. Giard stated that Walgreens has bought the Rite Aid Location and there may not be a replacement pharmacy; but that the Rite Aid does not own the property; this property is owned by a Trust in Southern California.

T. Giard asked M. Tristany to explain what is happening with Kent & Frost. M. Tristany explained that he had designed a conceptual site plan for the School Street property to show to American Ambulance; M. Tristany explained that American Ambulance Director of Operations had strong concerns for this location because there was no second ingress and egress to the site.

M. Tristany stated that EDC had discussed making School Street a municipal park and being part of the Heritage River walkway and a footbridge to get to Veterans Park. He stated that Kent and Frost is working on a concept design plan for a multi faceted municipal park, a handicapped fishing pier on the river, a foot bridge and a parking area for about 25 spaces. P. Lach stated that this is a long term plan; but in the short term, can we use it for parking. He asked if it would require a lot of work to use for parking. M. Tristany stated that it is overgrown but the public works can grade it to be used for the parking now. T. Giard stated that we don't want to call it municipal parking; we can call it overflow parking. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard stated that EDC should forward a resolution to the BOS that part of the use of the School Street property as a viable recreational use and additional overflow/event parking area. C. Geer asked if there was lighting there when people walked to their cars. He asked for a motion. D. Szall stated that there is lighting at the electric plant and maybe one or two on School Street. There was discussion of this matter including that there are four utility poles on School Street and that there should be a sign on Main Street indicating parking. T. Giard asked for a motion.

MOTION: P. Lach moved to forward to the BOS a proposal to use the 32 School Street property as a short term overflow/event parking area and eventually have a long term plan for a River Walk Community Park for passive recreation. C. Geer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

T. Giard asked how long before seeing the concept plan since there are some funds available before the end of the fiscal year. M. Tristany state that he will get in touch with Kent and Frost.

T. Giard stated that we received the Greenway designation and there is an Greenway Recognition Event at the Goodwin Conservation Center to which we have an invitation; he asked if someone was interested in attaching since he was unable to. There was discussion of this matter. He asked members to let Donna know who would be going.

T. Giard asked about Arts and Culture. P. Lach gave an update on the Arts and Culture Commission; he met with them this week and they have a lot of plans. He stated there is an Arts & Artisan Show coming up on Wednesday, June 29 from 6 pm. 9pm. at Veterans Park with the River Rocks with the Youth Center. He stated that he is on the committee now. He stated that there will be a talent show over the winter months at the high school that will have judges. T. Giard asked if it was for only town residents. P. Lach stated no; it will be open to residents of surrounding towns. There was discussion of this matter including that E. Bevis is writing at screen play. P. Lach stated that other events include: Community

Yard Sale May 21 and 28; Youthtopia on June 4; River Rocks with Melaena Band on June 29 with the Art Show; Jewett City Bike Night Memorial for TJ Sumner on September 1st ; Matt's Mission Memorial on September 24.

T. Giard stated that you have a copy of the Business Summit Flyer. C. Geer asked if this summit was in lieu of the regular EDC meeting. T. Giard stated yes. He stated that D. Szall prepared this strong flyer that we can hand out. He asked that the EDC members print out some flyers and hand them physically to business owners. P. Lach stated that he will give some to Dean's Corner for the counter; and for Mike Minarsky for his radio program. C. Geer stated that this will be a fun and informative night. There was discussion of this matter.

C. Discussion and update of Main Street lighting project.

T. Giard asked when the lights will be coming in. M. Tristany explained that it is tentatively June 20th. He explained that CT DOT is overseeing this grant so they must approve this spec before it goes out to bid for the installation. He gave copies of the schematic of the light details showing the addition of a plaque holder and banner arms, two wreath hooks, a covered duplex GFI receptacle and flag holder. K. Bousquet asked if the attachments were adjustable. M. Tristany stated yes. P. Lach asked when these would be installed. M. Tristany stated that he will send the lighting schematic to CTDOT and he will make sure that he will have them sign it and return it to go out to bid. T. Giard stated that it should be up by the fall. M. Tristany stated yes. T. Giard stated that there will be a formal lighting ceremony. There was discussion of this matter.

8. Correspondence

There was no discussion

9. Other Matters

P. Lach asked if the flower boxes were out since he had not seen them. T. Giard stated that he did not think they were out yet. C. Geer stated that Jewett City Greenhouses did them last year and they were beautifully. D. Szall stated that they are stored at Town Garage and that DPW has been busing with road work and you should check with Kevin or Todd. T. Giard will call Kevin tomorrow.

C. Geer told the members that she is proposing a Bed and Breakfast at her 18th Century Tavern which is near the family tree farm and the Overlook at Geer Tree Farm. She stated that her application is being presented at the June 13' 2016 Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting as a special exception; and there will be a public hearing on July 11, 2016. She explained that her ancestors came here in 1638 from Heavitree, England and it will be called Heavitree of Griswold B & B. She stated that she is very excited about this endeavor that hopefully will work in conjunction with the Overlook at Geer Tree Farm. There was discussion of this matter including that there will be 3 en suite bedroom.

10. Adjournment

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: P. Lach moved to adjourn the Griswold Economic Development Commission. C. Geer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall
Recording Secretary