



Town of Griswold



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**GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

JULY 16, 2014

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., Paul Lach, Charlotte Geer, Christopher Goodenough, and Recording Secretary Donna Szall

Absent: Town Planner Mario J. Tristany

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 the minutes of the regular meeting of May 21, 2014

T. Giard asked for any corrections or omissions.

MOTION: P. Lach moved to approve the minutes. C. Goodenough seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

B. The regular meeting of June 18, 2014 was cancelled for lack of a quorum.

MOTION: P. Lach moved to approve. C. Goodenough seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion as carried.

5. Public Comment

T. Giard asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to make public comment. There was no one who wished to make a public comment.

6. Matters Presented for Consideration

A. Discussion and update of a Town of Griswold Commercial Small Business Revolving Fund.

T. Giard explained that there will be a meeting with the NDC from Norwich that First Selectman K. Skulczyck arranged to discuss how they set up their small business revolving fund which is managed by Eastern Bank. They will make their presentation at Wednesday's 11 am round table meeting.

Tina Falck, Senior Center Director asked to explain how this fund works so she may tell the Seniors at their next meeting.

T. Giard explained that the small business revolving fund would be a loan that would be managed by a local bank for small business in town looking for a 3-5 year loan to make improvement and to expand their business based upon recommendations by the BOS. The sales of town owned properties would be used for this purpose. These sales would put these properties for the town to earn tax revenues

B. Discussion and update of STEAP grant downtown streetscape improvements

T. Giard explained that the town did not receive the STEAP grant award in June. He did say that there will be another award of the STEAP grant in September. He stated that he hoped the town would receive this award then.

C. Discussion and update of MSIF grant

T. Giard stated that MSIF grant will be awarded in September but the town has not heard anything from the State to date.

C. Goodenough asked T. Giard to explain how the funds from the STEAP and MSIF grants would be used so that Ms. Falck would have this information for the seniors. T. Giard explained that the MSIF grant would be for the Main Street Lighting Project to purchase the light poles. He stated that the STEAP grant would be used to install the light poles and the controller. P. Lach asked when the conduit would be installed. T. Giard stated that it will be sometime in August and stated that M. Tristany had contacted Prime Electric for their Schedule.

C. Geer asked when the T. Giard stated that the Water Company has 6 inch water pipes which are 100 years old and must be upgraded to 12 inch pipes in order for development to have enough water for fire safety. He stated that they have approximately \$500,000 for this upgrade for this year. T. Giard explained the Dept. of Urban Development grant coordinator will be meeting with the town at a round table meeting. He stated that the town is looking for an Urban Development Grant that is used for infrastructure for the remaining \$500,000.

C. Geer asked where there were natural gas lines. T. Giard stated that there are natural gas lines at the Energy Recover site in Plainfield on Route 12 about 12 miles away.

C. Goodenough ask when the town would be notified for the State paving project. T. Giard stated that the town has been notified that the paving will run from Slater Avenue to Route 164. He stated that he would see if he could get a CTDOT paving scheduled for the next five years. There was discussion of this matter.

D. Discussion and update of EDC Griswold Brochure process

T. Giard stated that the town was looking as a number of types of brochures that will be created by a Griswold high school intern who has skills with Microsoft Publisher and other software. D. Szall reminded the commission members that a tourism brochure is not the type of brochure that should be used to entice business developers who will create jobs for the town. She stated that many towns around the country have a number of brochures that address, economic development, tourism and what a town has to offer potential residents.

T. Giard stated that there is a new flat screen TV that will be used for meetings to show PowerPoint presentations, or GIS information for a particular parcel in town. T. Giard stated that the a program can be looped on a flat screen TV about Griswold and its plans for the future.

7. Correspondence

T. Giard explained that he had given a presentation to the Thames River Basin Partnership here at the town hall for the EDC and a river walk.

T. Giard asked C. Goodenough about the business directory that can be put on the web site. C. Goodenough explained that he was waiting for a response from the BOS. He asked where a list could be obtained other than the BOS. D. Szall suggested that he speak with the Town Clerk who has a list of businesses who register with her office. C. Goodenough stated that he had met with the director of Fiddle Head Food Co-op and Vendors which is a non-profit who was interested in expanding to Griswold. He stated that they were looking for a location for a 5000 sq. ft. building. There was discussion of this matter citing the vacant storefronts in the Rite Aid building.

T. Giard stated that the Wind Change Corporation was waiting for the governor's signature for their funding. He stated that Dollar General has begun working on their site. D. Szall stated that they still two or three outstanding issues before they can be issued an actual building permit; for now they are doing some site work in preparation for their building. He stated that UCFS was looking at the small Triangle town-owned property for their Health Services building.

C. Goodenough asked about Shop Rite. T. Giard stated that this project is in a holding pattern since there were issues with the two properties that were being considered. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard that C. Goodenough and his wife for all their work in weeding and watering the flower boxes along Main Street. C. Goodenough stated that there were a lot of weeds especially at the driveway entrance to Rite Aid and asked who was responsible for taking care of that location. T. Giard stated that it could be the town or more likely it was the State of Connecticut. T. Giard stated that a letter should be sent to CTDOT regarding the weeds along Main Street – Route 12.

C. Geer suggested that the business director be listed alphabetically and by category for the website. She also suggested when the list is complete to have a meeting to discuss what the Town needed and to determine its mission and how it will be marketed. There was discussion of this matter.

8. Adjournment

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: C. Geer moved to adjourn C. Goodenough seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall
Recording Secretary