



Town of Griswold



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**GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

AUGUST 15, 2012

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 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Thomas Giard, Jr., Vice Chairman Paul Lach, Kevin Skulczyck, Erica Bevis, and Recording Secretary Donna Szall.

Absent: Chris Hargus, Town Planner Carl Fontneau

Our town planner cannot make it based on the First Selectman's directive.

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 June 20, 2012

T. Giard asked for an approval of the minutes. E. Bevis moved to accept the minutes. P. Lach seconded the motion all were in favor. The motion was carried.

T. Giard stated that the planner, by direction of the first selectman, no longer services the economic development commission on a regular basis. He explained that the planner works only 18.5 hours and the selectman deemed that the planner's appearance here and other things tied to economic development is not crucial. T. Giard stated that he spoke to the first selectman, and after some conversation, if the EDC needs him, the selectman will authorize him to be at our meetings. T. Giard explained that any meeting hours must come out of the 18.5 hours for the planner. P. Lach asked if we can set up an every other month to go to one meeting or another so we see him every other month. There was discussion of this matter. T. Giard stated that he will try to fill in the gaps.

5. Correspondence

There was no discussion of correspondence.

6. Matters Presented for Consideration

A. Triangle status check for LEP services and administration of Demolition Grant

T. Giard explained that the selectmen named a contract for the LEP services and to administer the demolition grant so that process will begin at 226 East Main Street. He stated that it is moving along nicely; and this was a step that

the selectmen had held up for several meetings to hire someone. He asked for discussion of the triangle parcel. K. Skulczyck asked if this was the parcel across from the larger parcel that was demolished. T. Giard stated that it still has the building on it, the building will be demolished and the soil correction, so this project is moving along. E. Bevis asked who the developer is. T. Giard stated that he thought that it might be Kahn. D. Szall stated that the developer is in the June meeting minutes. D. Szall stated that there is a conceptual plan for the site. T. Giard stated that it is an 80 bed facility and will cost about \$15 million. He stated that it will be a boost to the tax base. E. Bevis stated that it will create jobs

B. Discussion of Business Incentive Program and MOU for sewer buy-ins.

T. Giard stated that both items were with the town attorney and they've been there far too long. C. Fontneau stated that he had to send an electronic copy to the attorney and the first selectman had never gotten it to him. T. Giard stated that the BOS thought that this was a resolution document; but that it is actually an ordinance and now that they understand that this is a legal document, this will go to a town meeting. T. Giard asked D. Szall to notify the committee when the town meeting will be.

T. Giard explained the MOU between the sewer authority and the town of Griswold is at the attorney and this is a resolution that would be passed at a selectmen's meeting. He stated that we will determine number for usage for us to work with the sewer authority when we get the document back. There was discussion of this matter.

C. Discussion of STEAP grant for downtown streetscape improvements and future MSIF Grant

T. Giard stated that the BOS on Tuesday approved hiring Kent & Frost for the lighting project. He explained that Kaestle Boos at my and Carl's invitation walked the town and they put in a proposal for \$32,000 plus; we extended the invitation to Kent & Frost and they came in with a figure of \$29,000 plus. They will sign a contract to use up the \$95,000 left in the grant. T. Giard explained that we have to expend all of the 95,000 to apply for the 9/28/12 in order to be eligible for the new grant with the state. There was discussion of this matter including that the \$29,700 is the cost to design the layout plan, post fixture selection and surveys and CDs.

T. Giard stated that when we are successful in the next round we will have money to finish the lighting project. K. Skulczyck stated that Kent & Frost did the original main street plan, and that we need to spend the money to get this done with that amount of money. T. Giard stated that the remaining \$60,000 will not complete the project without the new grant. P. Lach stated that the wiring for the new lighting would come down the pole and run through a conduit in a section of the sidewalk. There was discussion of this matter including that according to the state there is a good possibility to get grant in September for the lighting on Main Street. P. Lach asked if anyone contacted Voluntown and Norwich for their lighting. T. Giard stated that he will look into it. T. Giard stated that when driving through Voluntown, you don't notice the wires on the wooden poles and we could replace the street light itself with a better looking lighting fixture.

D. Report of activity from the Space Needs Committee

E. Bevis gave a report of the space need committee that they are working on the final report of their recommendations for the youth center and will be presented to the BOS in September. T. Giard asked what the recommendations were. E. Bevis stated that recommendation A was the nurses' station, option B was building a metal building between the ball field and the skate park and the state police would be located there as well. T. Giard stated that the Nurses would continue to use the Nurses station on Ashland Street by October 2013; and he felt that plan B with the metal building would be the option. E. Bevis stated that the cost would be about \$150,000 project. E. Bevis stated that the senior center has received a grant to expand the senior center. T. Giard stated that that project is about \$800,000; and that C. Fontneau submitted a STEAP grant for \$500,000 to complete that project. There was discussion of this matter.

E. Status review for commercial projects

T. Giard stated that you can read the report and that the Wyre Wynd had a good potential and there are bids coming in and maybe a buyer by now and which will create wind turbines. There was discussion of this matter.

F. Discussion of how to proceed with staff support reductions.

T. Giard stated that he has been talking to the Chairman of the BOF regarding the town's needs and that the Chair stated to put together a case to have the BOS bring to the board of finance. There was discussion of this matter of building a case to increase the planner's hours. T. Giard stated that C. Fontneau is a dedicated employee.

K. Skulczyck stated that he has been around town and that some of the businesses feel that they don't have a voice in the town. He stated that he encourages businesses to come to the meetings. T. Giard stated that he has experienced the same thing. There was discussion of this matter. K. Skulczyck suggested that he would put together a questionnaire to distribute to the business owners. There was consensus that the questionnaire was a good idea. P. Lach asked what happened with the bank pulling out of this main street project. T. Giard stated that there wasn't enough new business development. There was discussion of this matter.

7. Adjournment

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn. K. Skulczyck made a motion to adjourn. E. Bevis seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall
Recording Secretary