



# Town of Griswold



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## GRISWOLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 15, 2008

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., Vice Chairman Melvin Jetmore Paul Lach, and Chris Hargus, Town Planner Carl Fontneau, and Recording Secretary Donna Szall.

**Absent:**

#### 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. Approval of the minutes of August 20, 2008

T. Giard asked for approval of the minutes of August 20, 2008. M. Jetmore made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/20/08. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

##### B. Approval of the minutes of September 17, 2008

T. Giard asked for approval of the minutes of September 17, 2008. M. Jetmore made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/17/08. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

#### 5. Workshop

##### A. Garnet Consulting Services status report.

Leslie Cosgrave from Garnet Consulting Services gave her presentation to the commission. She reviewed the status report along with the Commission. She asked the commissioners what they would like to see in a brochure to promote the town.

T. Giard asked the commissioners to think about how it would be used. P. Lach stated that this brochure will introduce businesses to the town. T. Giard asked how it would be distributed and what details would be promoted. There was discussion of this matter that included promoting tourism, attractions that surround the town, enticement of prospective residents and business to the town.

M. Jetmore identified the Pachaug State Forest with 26,000 acres as well as the enterprise corridor. He stated that Griswold was an historical farming community and had an historical downtown. P. Lach state that there were public utilities within the borough. The commission identified the state highways, I-395 having two exits, Routes, 12, 164, 165 and 201. There was discussion of this matter.

L. Cosgrove stated that the brochure can be small enough to mail in a No. 10 envelope and can be accessed from the website. P. Lach identified the nearby casinos, shoreline, and the various businesses such as the 3 banks. There was discussion of this matter.

L. Cosgrove discussed the EDDI brochure website for Griswold. She explained that this was a website search engine for detailed town information in the United States. She stated that the information for Griswold was incomplete. There was discussion of this matter including providing a link to this search engine on the town website.

T. Giard stated that internal marketing to the local business was important to change attitudes and to improve the town's image. There was discussion of this matter.

L. Cosgrove explained that the town needed an incentive policy to attract businesses and to list state and local incentives. T. Giard stated that the BOS should be encouraged to create an incentive program for new business to be competitive, strengthen the tax base and create good business.

L. Cosgrove stated that the incentives should be in place before attracting new business and that that it only be used as a tie breaker. She also suggested giving incentives to existing businesses who want to their business. She stated that CT General Statute section 12-65b had specific rules for incentives and the types of incentives to be offered.

The commission identified the types of projects for the incentive program as retail, office, and warehouse and storage and distribution. L. Cosgrove stated that this incentive program could not be utilized by a business delinquent in their taxes. There was discussion of this matter including a list of business owners who have had current projects in Griswold.

L. Cosgrove asked for any questions from the commission. T. Giard asked if she will be back for next month's meeting. L. Cosgrove stated yes, she will take the information she received tonight and have something for next month for their review.

#### **B. EDC comments on Draft MDP and Affirmative Action/Minority Participation Plan**

C. Fontneau stated that he gave changes to TPA Group for the draft MDP and asked if they were comprehensive changes. T. Giard stated that Burt Sacco suggested that the commission give C. Fontneau the authority to work with the DECD for their review of the MDP and for C. Fontneau to determine when the draft can go the DECD. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard asked for a motion. M. Jetmore made a motion to grant conditional approval to the town planner to review changes of MDP to send a draft copy to the state DECD. C. Hargus seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

C. Fontneau stated the affirmative action/minority participation plan was reviewed by the TPA Group. He stated that this is a policy that must go to the BOS and he was waiting to get

comparable numbers from CCM. He explained that this is a minority participation plan and not an affirmative action plan. He asked for input from the commission regarding minority participation of the on-site labor force for projects. P. Lach stated that he thought that it is called diversity now and M. Jetmore thought that it was rescinded. C. Fontneau stated that there is a component in the MDP that is required to have a policy statement and must still be in the legislation. There was discussion of this matter.

**C. Results of SECTER site tour on September 24, 25, and 26.**

C. Fontneau gave information on the site selection tour and that there was a list of site developers in the staff report. He stated that this was a great region to locate. He stated that the two sites here in Griswold had to be taken off the tour due to lack of time. C. Fontneau stated that he gave a presentation about Griswold and the Route 395 Enterprise Corridor at the Friday breakfast. There was discussion of this matter including representation on the COG.

**D. Other items of interest.**

T. Giard asked for any other items of interest. C. Fontneau stated that a contact from the SECTER tour who was interested in the Polinsky site near exit 86. There was discussion of this matter.

T. Giard asked for any other items.

**6. Adjournment**

T. Giard asked for a motion to adjourn. M. Jetmore so moved. P. Lach seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Szall  
Recording Secretary