

East Lyme Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
September 8, 2009

Members Present: Steve Santino, Ed Shapiro, John Jensen,  
Charles Ambulos and Richard Gada

Also Present: First Selectman Paul Formica

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to Order. Chairman Steve Santino called the September 8, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Shapiro asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the July 14, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission. Approval of Minutes of July 14 was tabled.

3. Delegations. There were no delegations.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

B. Reports

1. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Formica showed Commission members a conceptual drawing of municipal parking.

Mr. Shapiro felt in order for downtown to grow and become a tourist attraction public restrooms are needed. Mr. Jensen agreed restrooms are needed. Mr. Formica stated there is a restroom facility at Hole-in-the-Wall.

Mr. Formica informed the Commission soon the Town will have a new grocery store and the Morton House and Constantine's new owners will open.

Mr. Formica stated a portion of the Boardwalk will be closed by next fall while AMTRAK does its construction work. Army Corps is taking comments for this work. Mr.

Formica wants the Boardwalk protected from a 100 year storm. The new Boardwalk will be concrete. The wooden portion will be removed.

Mr. Jensen asked about the possibility of a tunnel at Pennsylvania Avenue allowing better access to the beach. Mr. Formica stated he did not believe there would be enough space to create a handicapped entrance underneath the railroad tracks. AMTRAK is not considering it, and the Town does not have enough funding for it.

The Streetscape project will begin in the next couple of weeks. They will use brick and concrete and Veterans Memorial will be enlarged. Damaged trees will be removed. DOT has given permission to place a crosswalk in front of Niantic Cinema.

Mr. Formica took a bus tour around the proposed Gateway with Messrs. Courtney, Dodd and Jutilla. The state plans to resurface I-95. The Town suggested closing Exit 75 except for emergency vehicles. Exit 74 will be upgraded. The developer of Gateway plans to design and rebuild that section. Gateway has already obtained wetland permits.

Commission members received a copy of letter dated September 4, 2009 from Anne S. Evans, Director of U. S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Export Assistance Center, to First Selectman Paul Formica, regarding marketing maple syrup in Connecticut.

Mr. Formica presented Commission members with draft text of ballot questions recommended by the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Ambulos asked if members on boards and commission were appointed to review useable buildings in Town. Mr. Formica replied some members are staff, Board of Education members, and Robert Tobin, a former member of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Peter Minutti, Associate Professor at UCONN, who has been working with the POCD will be hired to assist.

On September 9 the Board of Selectmen will consider purchasing a 35,000 square foot building on Colton Road to store Public Works, Parks & Recreation and Board of Education equipment. There will be a loss in tax revenue but a savings in operational costs.

Commission members were invited to attend concerts at the Town Hall on Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m, sponsored by the Lions Club and local businesses.

2. Chairman's Report. Mr. Santino invited Gary Goeschel, Planning Director, to the next meeting of this Commission. The Plan of Conservation and Development Commission is working on updates. Commission members were given copies of the last version of Section Six on Economic Development and asked to give comments to Mr. Santino on recommended revisions. He will compile the responses, and submit the information.

3. Presentation of Bills. The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 2.50 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from July 14, 2009 through August 4, 2009.

MOTION: Mr. Shapiro moved to pay the bill for the Recording Secretary for 2.50 hours of secretarial work for the For the Economic Development Commission from July 14, 2009 through August 4, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Gada. 5-0) Unanimous.

#### C. Old Business

1. Roles and Responsibilities. Final review of assignments will be sent out before October meeting for confirmation of roles and responsibilities. Also, Mr. Shapiro recommended that an attendance policy be included as part of a commissioner members responsibilities to the EDC. Mr. Jensen also mentioned that their may an attendance policy for service organizations. This matter will be discussed at the October meeting. Also, Mr. Santino asked Fran to review 2009 minutes and develop an accounting of commission member's attendance.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to adjourn the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting of September 8 at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary