

East Lyme Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
October 13, 2009

Members Present: Steve Santino, Ed Shapiro, John Jensen,  
Camille Alberti and Richard Gada

Also Present: First Selectman Paul Formica  
Gary Goeschel, Planning Director

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to Order. Chairman Steve Santino called the October 13, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Santino asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the September 8, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Shapiro moved to approve the September 8, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission, as presented.  
Seconded by Mr. Gada. Ms. Alberti abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

3. Delegations. There were no delegations.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

B. Reports

Mr. Formica and Mr. Jensen arrived.

1. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Formica reported the Streetscape project began last week. Mr. Gada suggested that the trees be of equal size. Mr. Formica informed him the Tree Warden determined which trees needed to be taken out. The Streetscape project is expected

to be completed by the Light Parade. An additional grant in the amount of \$200,000 has been received for this project.

He invited all to a dedication of the Hole in the Wall.

Mr. Formica proposed that the commission consider oversight for the “Celebrate East Lyme” activities. “Celebrate East Lyme” would include all of the community activities that are a draw, such as the Celebrate East Lyme, Light Parade, summer concerts, etc. If the commission oversaw these activities, the events would be covered under the Town’s insurance policy. He would put the funding for these events in the commission’s budget. Mr. Jensen suggested that a new Commission be created for this purpose. Ms. Alberti asked how much work is involved in overseeing it. Mr. Jensen asked if the Town was in a position to hire an Event Planner.

Mr. Formica would like to see a trolley from Flanders to Niantic to Rocky Neck State Park. He felt grants may be available.

Mr. Formica stated he has sent a letter to the Commissioner suggesting a train stop at Rocky Neck State Park.

2. Chairman’s Report. Mr. Santino reviewed comments on Section Six of the Plan of Conservation and Development section on Economic Development. Commission members received a revised copy. Mr. Goeschel stated this section will be discussed with Peter Miniutti.

Mr. Goeschel stated revisions need to be completed by July 1, 2010. The State of Connecticut has enacted legislation effective July 1, 2010 that if a town applies for STEEP grants it will no longer be eligible if the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development has not been updated.

The Steering Committee has worked with UCONN on updating the Plan of Conservation and Development. A number of revisions have been completed. The Affordable Housing Plan has been finalized and attached to the Plan of Conservation and Development.

He suggested discussions on water and sewer, and how it plays a role in economic development.

Mr. Jensen asked how input submitted by members of this Commission at the Public Forum has been used. Mr. Goeschel stated Professor Miniutti put forth recommendations based on input from the Public Forum.

There was discussion on a site sewage treatment plan. It has a long approval process. A Facilities Manager would be needed to manage it. If it failed and the developer did not have enough funds, the Town would be responsible for it. Mr. Formica felt a Regional Authority is needed to take care of water and sewer for towns in Southeastern Connecticut.

Mr. Jensen stated this Commission is looking at redevelopment. If there are zoning changes, it would affect economic development.

Ms. Alberti asked when a subdivision is approved how it is determined whether or not it will be a public or private system. Mr. Goeschel replied it is determined if it is within the sewer shed boundary or another sewer system.

3. Presentation of Bills. The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 2.75 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from September 8, 2009 through September 10, 2009.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to pay the bill for the Recording Secretary for 2.75 hours of secretarial work for the for the Economic Development Commission from September 8, 2009 through September 10, 2009.  
Seconded by Mr. Gada. (4-0) Unanimous.

### C. Old Business

1. Roles and Responsibilities. Roles and Responsibilities for Economic Development Commission members were reviewed. Mr. Jensen asked that the last item in 4. Real Estate Liaison will be removed.

Also discussed was adding a section on attendance to the Roles and Responsibilities. Mr. Jensen presented a sample of an attendance policy developed after the Rotary Club. The discussion of an attendance policy concluded with a recommendation of attendance to at least 60% of the meetings in a calendar year, and no more than 3 consecutive meetings in a

row. A provision will also be included around leave of absence. Further review and discussion will take place at next month's meeting.

2. Discussion of the POCD. Mr. Santino asked that Commission members give him any further revisions they have to Section Six on Economic Development of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

#### D. New Business

1. Open Discussion. Mr. Santino reported Mr. Ambulos attended a seminar and will give an update at the next meeting of this Commission.

Commission members were asked if they were able to attend a seminar on Small Towns, How to Connect and Compete.

Ms. Alberti reported 200 individuals have checked the web on the top ten reasons to locate a business in East Lyme.

Mr. Shapiro informed the Commission that Niantic Main Street has asked if this Commission is willing to give support to the Holiday Stroll.

MOTION: Mr. Shapiro moved to support the Holiday Stroll as this Commission has in the past to help defray the cost of a horse drawn carriage. Seconded by Mr. Gada. No vote.

This motion was tabled until a written request is received from Niantic Main Street.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to adjourn the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting of October 13 at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary