

East Lyme Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
February 9, 2010

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

Also Present: Mark Nickerson, acting ex officio  
Rachel Rinosky

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to Order. Chairman Steve Santino called the February 9, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Santino asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the January 12, 2010, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to approve the January 12, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission, as presented.  
Messrs. Shapiro and Gada abstained from voting.  
Seconded by Mr. Ambulos. (3-0-2) Motion carried.

3. Delegations. Rachel Rinosky was present.

4. Public Comments. Ms. Rinosky informed the Commission she is a partner in Grace and Must Love Dogs and has chaired the Holiday Stroll for the last five years.

She reported the Holiday Stroll improved over last year. Businesses felt more individuals made purchases. It attracted people for the entire weekend. The carriage rides draw many people. A survey was taken and overall it gave a positive response.

Mr. Ambulos asked if any feedback was received on what type of businesses individuals would like to see in town? Ms. Rinosky replied boutiques and restaurants.

Mr. Ambulos asked if businesses have tracked where individuals attending were from? Ms. Rinosky replied there were many out of towners. Mr. Gada added they had a drawing and individuals were asked to fill out a form. Ms. Rinosky stated a list is being compiled from information on the forms. Direct mail and emails are sent out. This year Facebook was also used. Mr. Shapiro asked was email or direct mail better? Ms. Rinosky replied we use both, because not everyone has email. A report is being compiled and will be sent to Commission members. Our Annual Meeting is held in May.

Ms. Rinosky stated we have applied for grants for trees for Cini Park. It was felt that this should be coordinated with AMTRAK's plans. Mr. Nickerson agreed to discuss AMTRAK's scheduled work with Mr. Formica.

## B. Reports

1. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Nickerson reported the Board of Selectmen has begun its budget process.

Celebrate East Lyme will move into the Parks and Recreation budget. Parks and Recreation will have a new Special Revenue Fund to accept revenue/donations.

A STEEP Grant of \$200,000 has been received.

The Niantic Rotary Club hopes to raise money through its Golden Raffle for the walkway.

Rt. 95 will be repaved. There has been discussion on closing off Exit 75 during construction.

Mr. Mulholland informed him the Gateway project is moving forward.

Mr. Jensen asked Mr. Nickerson for an update on farming in East Lyme. Mr. Nickerson stated farms are a business. On March 3 there will be a Public Hearing on a proposed Agricultural Committee. Mr. Jensen felt farming is another way to promote our Town as well as a source of income. It will also allow for more open space.

Mr. Ambulos reported a grant was received to search for incentive housing properties. Mr. Jensen stated the state requires the Town of have 10% affordable housing. Incentive

housing is allowable by state statutes. Mr. Nickerson stated there are four zones being looked into: the Midway Mall, the residential portion of Gateway, downtown and town-owned land behind UBS Lumber.

Mr. Nickerson was asked to request the Board of Selectmen for two new members for this Commission. Board members were asked to make recommendations for the new members.

2. Chairman's Report. Mr. Santino plans to discuss the Economic Development Commission's portion of the Plan of Conservation and Development with Gary Goeschel.

Mr. Santino reported we have been requested to have no increase in this Commission's Fiscal Year 2010/2011 budget to last year's budget.

3. Presentation of Bills. The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 1.50 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from January 12, 2010 through January 13, 2010.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to pay the bill for the Recording Secretary for 1.50 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from January 12, 2010 through January 13, 2010.  
Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

### C. Old Business

1. Updates: Roles and Responsibilities. Mr. Jensen gave Commission members copies of CERC Site Finder. It showed large parcels available in East Lyme at Darrow Pond, Walnut Hill and at Business Park West. This site gives demographic information on towns.

Mr. Ambulos reported Whiting Farms and 38 Hope Street have been taken over. A 203 acre subdivision was approved at Egret Road. He felt these 203 acres may have been a perfect location for retail or mixed use development. He felt this Commission should be asked its opinion before approval is given.

2. 2010 Planning. Mr. Santino asked Commission members to be prepared to discuss at its next meeting activities it wishes to become involved in.

Mr. Ambulos asked that Mr. Santino discuss the Town's plan for the next thirty years with Mr. Formica.

Mr. Shapiro felt the Streetscape needs to be continued. We need to create an environment for restaurants.

Mr. Gada asked what is planned for when the Boardwalk is impacted so as not to lose visitors to Town.

It was felt Hole-in-the-Wall should be connected to McCook Point Park.

#### D. New Business

1. Open Discussion. There was additional discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to adjourn the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010 at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary