

Approved September 10, 2009

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Madison Economic Development Commission held on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 pm Madison Town Campus.

Present: Commissioners Peter Thomas, Jim Ball, Hank Yaggi, Anne Foley

Also Present: Keith Mirante, Coastal Chiropractic and Wellness

Peter Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

1. Public Comment. There were not items discussed under public comment.
2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Thomas asked that Item #10 be changed. The date of the meeting to be canceled should be July 9, not July 13. On a motion made by Mr. Ball and seconded by Mr. Yaggi, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2009 with that one change.
3. Update Report on Bradley Road Vision Study. Mr. Thomas suggested adding the east side of Wall Street as an addition to the Study. There was discussion of the Griswold Airport Property, and the fact that with the downward economic trend, a 55 and over housing project may no longer be viable.. Mr. Thomas suggested requesting \$7000 of the '09 EDC budget , \$5000 for the mapping of East Gate (and the East side of Wall Street?.) and \$2000 for various other projects. Mr. Ball moved to accept the budget request, Ms Foley seconded, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve.
4. Update report on Economic Summit. This item was removed from the agenda.

5. Discussion on EDC intern. Mr. Thomas reported the First Selectman has not found an available desk. Mr. Ball said that he will “adroitly” seek a solution, and that “It will be done.”

6. Discussion of list of 10 items prepared by Commission members for consideration for future EDC projects. Mr. Thomas reviewed suggestions by members and suggested the following as priorities.
 1. Stabilize downtown through continuation, development and implementation of strategies and objectives set forth the Bradley Road Vision Study.
 2. Hire an Economic Development Director.
 3. Expand the commercial districts along Route One (east and west,) and create a third gateway into town along Route 79 in the north.
 4. Create and coordinate, with local and regional realtors, a comprehensive list of available properties for sale and lease, and make available on Website.
 5. Coordinate with state, regional and federal agencies to create synergy.
 6. Create a resource guide for existing and new businesses, a “who to call” for help or information.
 7. Bring developers, business owners, community residents, realtors and town boards together (a summit.)
 8. Incorporate, as part of the future development of the town, an understanding of existing services and those needed in the future. (such as affordable housing.)
 9. Define and refine the types of industries and businesses to be sought.

7. Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Thomas suggested that this be discussed at a later date.

8. Mission Statement. Mr. Thomas recommended that discussion on a Mission Statement be discussed at a later date.

9. Old Business) Mr. Thomas noted that due to other pressing matters Mr. Gladstone has not been able to attend our last few meetings. In order for us to avoid losing the momentum we have built up regarding the Bradley Road Vision Study and the work that we are doing to encourage economic growth in Madison, we will need the support of the board of Selectman, especially with: the upcoming 10 year revision to the town's Plan of Conservation, the impact of the current economic decline and the probable decrease in the "Grand List" associated with the decline. Mr. Ball will meet with Mr. Gladstone on this issue.

On a motion made by Mr. Ball and seconded by Ms. Foley, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Madison Economic Development Commission will be held on August 13, 2009 at 7:30pm at the Madison Town Campus.

Anne Foley