

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
JUNE 21, 2012 – 12:15 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Fafard, Obrey, Dowling, Smith, Kadri, Mathanool (12:30 p.m.)
Staff: Strother
Other: City Mayor Galbraith

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2012, MAY 17, 2012 AND WEB PAGE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2012

MOTION: To approve the April 27, 2012 minutes

Motion made by Obrey, seconded by Smith, so voted unanimously

MOTION: To approve the May 17, 2012 minutes

Motion made by Smith, seconded by Dowling, so voted 4 in favor and 2 abstentions (Obrey and Kadri)

MOTION: To approve the Web Page Subcommittee Minutes of May 10, 2012

Motion made by Smith, seconded by Dowling, so voted 4 in favor and 2 abstentions (Fafard and Kadri)

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Website Update

Barbara Strother reported that as a follow-up to the May 17th meeting, she has met with Mike Murphy and Mark Oefinger along with IT Staff to review the proposed changes that have been completed to date. Both were very pleased with the work of the Web Page Subcommittee and staff. IT Staff will also be meeting with Thor from Pyramid Marketing. It was decided to go live as soon as possible, but wait to do a press release until after Thor has had a chance to review the work to date (estimated to meet and provide input and do updates will occur within the next 30 days). Staff noted that she was giving the site one more review including all links, and has found some issues she will be reviewing with IT; therefore, no date has been determined for going live.

2. Selection of EDC Representative for POCD/MCP Steering Committee

Barbara Strother provided a broad overview of the upcoming POCD/MCP update. Bill Smith indicated his interest in being the EDC representative on the Steering Committee. Lian Obrey noted it would be helpful if the EDC could be kept apprised of meeting dates, and especially public sessions, so that other members can attend these sessions when possible. It was also recommended that the Commission will review the current document prior to this initiative starting. Marian Galbraith noted that the City

has their own POCD, and the Commission noted their belief that it would be desirable for the City to be involved in the town's process also.

MOTION: To appoint Bill Smith as the EDC representative on the POCD/MCP Steering Committee.

Motion made by Mathanool, seconded by Obrey, so voted unanimously

3. Welcome New EDC Member Paul Yatcko

Staff noted that Paul Yatcko, Groton Utilities Director, has been appointed to the Economic Development Commission.

4. Other

A. Next Major EDC Work Item

Now that the Web Page work has been essentially completed, the next major work item for the EDC to focus on is Incentives. This was one of the 2 major work items for the year discussed at the EDC January strategic planning session, and is also one of the Town Council goals for EDC involvement. Staff will review her file and provide copies of materials that will be helpful for the update and the history of how incentives have been used in the Town. Bruce Fafard also asked the EDC to visit other sites to see what is available in other communities.

B. Eastern Chamber Upcoming Pfizer Meeting

The Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce reported that at a recent meeting with Pfizer senior management and other community leaders, the company expressed a willingness to work with the community to explore possible re-use of the vacated buildings. The Chamber has set up a meeting for June 26th Mystic Marriott at 8:30 A.M. Catherine Smith, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, is expected to attend as well as Pfizer representatives who will provide an overview of buildings that are, or will be, vacated.

The purpose of the meeting is to ascertain the nature and extent of interest among entrepreneurs, especially members of the scientific community, in the soon to be vacant buildings. The goal of this meeting is also to focus on the kind of laboratory space, equipment and support services small companies might as well as space needs. Several members indicated they would be attending the meeting, as well as staff.

C. Meeting with Governor

Bruce Fafard reported that he, the Town Manager and City Mayor met with the Governor and the DECD Commissioner regarding a potential Task Force to be established to work on Pfizer reuse issues. Updates will be

provided, but a work program must be defined first. Members expressed an interest in this effort.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

George Mathanool Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist

NOT APPROVED