

Litchfield Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

CALL TO ORDER

David Dean, EDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRESENT

Regular members, David Dean, Kay Carroll, Renee Betar, Cleve Fuessenich, Alexander VandenBerg were present. Alternate members Doug Parker, William Conti and Mitchell Fishman were present. Regular member Judy Elliott was absent. Anthea Disney, interested EDC Commission membership, was present.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Alternate Mitchell Fishman was appointed for Judy Elliott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kay Carroll made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2012 meeting as read. Cleve Fuessenich seconded the motion; the motion passed with Renee Betar and Mitchell Fishman abstaining..

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

LITCHFIELD JAIL

David Dean and Cleve Fuessenich shared that activities from the state regarding sale of jail are confusing and it's still difficult to determine in which direction this project is going.

UPDATE ON POTENTIAL NEW MODEL FOR STOP & SHOP

No application has yet been submitted to Litchfield P&Z. In anticipation of an application, P&Z has established a "Character" sub-committee to delineate criteria that embody the existing character of Litchfield for a new Stop & Shop. The final goal would be adoption of such resolution. The potential impact of said resolution is uncertain.

UPDATE ON NEW TOWN HALL EFFORTS

Town has retained an architect and the committee is meeting semi-monthly. Speculation is that a new building (v. renovations) is the latest choice.

UPDATES ON TWIN 30,000 PROPANE TANKS ON TORRINGTON RD.

Public hearing was held on LaPlaca Propane and Oil's proposed office building, propane storage tanks, gravel driveway, parking and bio-filtration basin for storm water renovation on Torrington Rd.

MONTHLY UPDATES:

LITCHFIELD HILLS FOOD SYSTEMS

All permits are in place for June 16th opening of outdoor market in Center School parking lot. Other

Litchfield Hills Food Systems' affiliated projects include the KidsMarathon with estimated 900 kids ready to run the last mile in Litchfield on Saturday, June 9.

NW CT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Doug Parker reported that the CEDS survey has 56 responses with more needed, especially from sectors including small businesses, banks and the medical community. Accordingly, the survey deadline was extended to June 7, 2012. A planning(?) meeting with facilitators is planned for June 12, 2012 and the next full meeting is scheduled at the Torrington branch of UConn on June 27, 2012.

LABA: Nothing new

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

- 1) OLIPHANT in Preservation Trust building on the Green is open with good response from locals and visitors.
- 2) The DMZ , a high –end salon from Danbury/New Milford, is open with good response..

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS

- 1) Park and Rec
 - a. Kay Carroll reported accounting and budget objectives and requests were made, the issue of Community Field restrooms and drug-free/smoke-free zones were requested and discussed.
- 2) Litchfield Borough
 - a. David Dean noted item of interest and concern is the impact of the pending litigation, - Chabad appeal to the 2nd District – on borough finances and residents.
- 3) Conservation Commission – Cleve Fuessenich – nothing outstanding.
- 4) P&Z – Bill Conti reiterated the Stop and Shop issues and noted approved application for a teaching kitchen school at Haight Vineyard
- 5) WPCA – Renée Betar noted budget/financial reporting concerns and pending litigation.

OLD BUSINESS – CHH's Dan McIntyre spoke at Rotary about the hospital's affiliation with the Smilow Cancer Center and desire to build a cancer facility in the East Litchfield/Torrington border.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cleve Fuessenich shared he is putting final touches on a new tri-fold brochure for tourists that lists areas businesses and restaurants. The next step is securing funding to print and distribute the brochure. Possible sources of funding include area banks and realtors.
2. Kay Carroll inquired about Litchfield's involvement in the War of 1812 and the possibility of Litchfield's participation in a 200th anniversary celebration of the war via a US/Canadian Peace Tour Garden. Likely resources for additional discussion include the Litchfield Historical Society and Garden Club.
3. Kay Carroll shared concerns from local businesses regarding the closing of the green to traffic to accommodate the filming of a dog food commercial. While the filming brought some exposure and business to Litchfield, the lack of advance notice and communication with green business



owners was unsettling. It was suggested that perhaps a study of pros and cons to assess the impact of attracting film companies might help develop a better balance with local businesses, and a possible sliding scale fee charged to film companies and distributed to local businesses might help compensate local businesses for lost business due to filming.

4. Kay Carroll shared information on the Transition Litchfield Community Celebration scheduled for Sunday, June 24th from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 27, 2012** at the Litchfield Town Hall at 7 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Kay Carroll made a motion to adjourn. Mitchell Fishman seconded motion and it passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission
David E. Dean, Chr.