

From: Lois Laczko May 18, 2010 12:14:53 PM
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Cc:

ADOPTED

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES
April 8, 2010
REGULAR MEETING

1. Call To Order

Chairman Deming called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:33 AM in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Commission members Kevin Crimmins, Chuck Minor, Derek Peterson, and Alan Needham, were present. Lou George arrived at 7:55 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2010 and March 11, 2010

Commissioner Peterson made a motion to approve the February 11, 2010 and March 11, 2010 minutes as written. The motion was seconded, which was unanimously approved.

3. Public Audience

Mr. Duguay, Nod Brook Drive, stated that he attended the public hearing on the PAD changes several weeks ago. He did speak at that meeting. He would now like to state his concern to the Economic Development Commission members. He believes in economic development; he owns a small business. He stated that he also heard the Chairman speak in favor of this draft at that public hearing. Mr. Duguay stated that not all development is economic; it may not bring about economic development. He stated that there is enough residential in Simsbury. He feels that there is some bias in the PAD document as well. He urged the Commission members to read the PAD document again. Places that have significant zoning laws are some of the greatest places in the world. He feels that metrics are needed to preserve Simsbury's natural beauty. Mr. Duguay stated that he does not believe that there are enough architectural mandates, zoning regulations and metrics in this PAD Regulation.

4. Reports: SMSP, FVVA

Ms. Nielson stated that the New England White Water Triple Crown will be in Town this week. They will be offering specials on hotels for people and volunteers coming to Simsbury. A welcome package will also be circulated with specials for area restaurants. Along with this welcome package, there will also be a map. She stated that they would like to make sure these people are staying, eating and shopping in Simsbury.

Ms. Nielson stated that the Talcott Mountain Music Festival is coming soon. They have a five year contract for the vending. There will be several new vendors on site this year.

Ms. Nielson stated that the Farmers Market was taken over by Main Street, which starts June 3rd. Simsbury farmers will be included in the Farmers Market this year. There will be approximately 35 vendors.

Regarding the upcoming Business Expo, Main Street will be reaching out to new businesses to match them with capital to show them that there is capital in the market place. There are six banks on board and more than a dozen other partners. This is a proactive way to help businesses. Commissioner Crimmins stated that this event is a great idea. When the business expo is set up, there will be resource agencies to help give businesses information and guidance regarding the types of funding mechanisms that are appropriate for them. They will also be able to talk to the banks at this event. Commissioner Crimmins stated that there will also be follow up seminars after this Expo. This event will reach businesses of all sizes from many communities. Businesses are excited; this is something that has not been done before.

Ms. Nielson stated that the Business Expo will be held at the Riverview on May 13th. This event is free to the public. Free business seminars will be held throughout the Farmington Valley during the rest of May and June.

5. Status of the PAD and the Public Hearing / Status of the Charrette

Chairman Deming read an email from Mr. Peck, who could not attend today's meeting, to the Commission members. The email stated that, regarding the Business Improvement District, an ordinance was drafted in the past, although it did not go forward because there was not enough support.

Regarding the PAD Regulation, the Zoning Commission meeting will reconvene on April 19th at Eno Memorial Hall. Mr. Peck and the Town Attorney are currently working on the revisions keeping in mind the input and public comment from the public hearing. He is hopeful that the hearing will be closed that night and a decision made that night or at the next Zoning Commission meeting.

Work is continuing on the Town Center Code. Code Studio will be back with the full Town Center Code in April. The Town Attorney, Attorney Sitkowski and Mr. Peck continue to work on the details of how the Town Center Code and Connecticut Law work together in the proper adoption of the Code.

Regarding the Incentive Housing Zone, work continues and Mr. Peck is hopeful that this can be submitted to the Zoning Commission and OPM in May.

The Commission continued their discussion regarding finding additional funding for the design standards for the Charrette.

6. Old Business/New Business: Real Estate Exchange

Regarding the Real Estate Exchange, Chairman Deming stated that he attended this event, although it was not as heavily attended as in past years. He stated that the EDC displayed some Charrette information and people were impressed with Simsbury.

Chairman Deming stated that there will be a new member of the Economic Development Commission; he will be joining the Commission at the May meeting.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Minor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 a.m. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.