

From: Carrie Vibert July 17, 2012 2:49:52 PM  
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To: SimsburyCT\_EconMin  
Cc:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 10, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Deming, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were also present: Kevin Crimmins, Shannon Knall, Allan R. Raphael, Lou George, Chuck Minor and Derek Peterson. Also in attendance were Mary Glassman, First Selectmen, Ferg Jansen, liaison to the Planning Commission, Lisa Heavner, Board of Selectmen, Hiram Peck, Town Planner, and other interested parties.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 4, 2012 & April 12, 2012

Commissioner Crimmins moved for the approval of the minutes from the March 4, 2012 and the April 12, 2012 meetings, as presented. Commissioner George seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. REPORTS; SMSP & FVVA

SMSP - Anita Mielert, SMSP Board Member, addressed the Commission and stated there is an Annual Meeting for CT Main Street Center coming up in June, to be held in Manchester. Ms. Mielert announced that Simsbury has been awarded an Award of Excellence in the Master Planning Category, and she said Mr. Peck will accept the award on June 11th. She then announced they have found a new Market Master for the Farmers Market, Ellyn Ziplow. Ms. Mielert spoke further about the Farmers Market and how it benefits the local community and local organizations. Ms. Mielert said the Main Street Design Committee is working with the Town to execute the \$90,000 grant for Eno Memorial Hall. Then, Ms. Mielert mentioned the work SMSP is doing to coordinate the vendors for the Talcott Mountain Music Festival. She then spoke briefly about the small business loan/grant program currently being offered by the State. Ms. Mielert moved on to speak about the Pinchot Documentary and the large event, to be held on September 6th, for the world premier of the PBS documentary. The renovations of Eno Hall, as well as sources of funding, were discussed further.

FVVA - Nancy Anstey, FVVA, reported that the Barn Tour is now over and it was a big success. She then announced the Farmington Valley Tourism Forum

will be held on May 15th. Ms. Anstey said the CT Conference on Tourism will be held on May 17th, in Hartford, which will unveil the new CT branding initiative. Ms. Anstey spoke about the ArtWalk Simsbury which will be held on Saturday, May 19th. She said there is a Senior Seminar at Eno on May 31. Then Ms. Anstey spoke about Trails in Motion. Ms. Anstey announced FVVA will be hosting their first old-fashion summer picnic at Hill-Stead and are also currently working on 2013 guide.

#### IV. WPCA: PAD and Town Center Zone Policy Update

Commissioner Deming said he attended the last WPCA subcommittee meeting and essentially, after the consultant came back with initial findings they were sent back again to crunch the numbers, with specific development assumptions, in order to find out what the potential impact might be to the FCC charge. Mr. Peck, Town Planner, said he did not know if the topic is on the Agenda for tonight's WPCA meeting. Mr. Peck reminded everyone this would only effect the PAD and Town Center Zones. He then continued by saying if the hook-up fees are reduced, it could help potential development by increasing returns for developers (even if just slightly), and in turn, help them secure the financing they need. Mr. Peck said he is hopeful the consultant will come back quickly with a suggestion. Mr. Peck said he thinks a reduction by 50-60% would work well. The hook-up fee was discussed further by Mr. Peck and the Commission members. Mr. Peck stated he is hopeful progress on this matter will help kick-start and/or support multiple projects that could contribute to increasing the amount of affordable housing in Simsbury. Ms. Mary Glassman, First Selectmen, thanked the Board for being involved with this issue, which is a big issue with a lot of money at stake. Ms. Glassman stated that someone will be on the hook for the bond amount and that will be a large issue. Ms. Glassman said she realizes these hook-up fees are an issue, but she hopes developers consider the significantly lower application fees in Simsbury versus other towns.

Commissioner George brought up The Hartford and said he thinks this is an issue that needs to be focused on, specifically in terms of how to keep jobs here in Simsbury. Ms. Glassman said they are in constant communication with The Hartford and are also collaborating with the other cities that also have Hartford properties. This topic was discussed further in terms of real estate and jobs. Commissioner George and Ms. Heavner, Board of Selectmen, spoke about how Simsbury can compete in terms of being a viable location for remaining Hartford business sectors and new companies that may be purchasing portions of The Hartford's business.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Heavner mentioned that Ron Angelo, DECD, will be coming to speak about the recent economic incentives for small businesses on May 17th. Secondly, Ms. Heavner said, they have been approached by the Airport in Simsbury regarding the Fly-In to see what they can do to support them. Ms. Heavner

said while the budgets are very tight, they would be willing to support them via volunteer efforts. Commissioner Crimmins said the Fly-In has been funded and presented by the Simsbury Flying Club. He said there are sponsorships and vendors to help support the Fly-In, but he said the Airport could not continue its operations without the Fly-In, as it contributes at least half of its operating budget. Commissioner Crimmins encouraged people to get involved if they are able. Commissioner Crimmins reminded everyone that Simsbury's big commercial/industrial park is located in that area, which is home to a lot of useful and productive businesses. He noted it is an important area to our Town, which is often overlooked.

Commissioner George said he was shocked to hear from a client this week, that CEDF is no longer funding the small business loans/grants. Ms. Heavner said that was not the information she had and that she would check to make sure they are still funding.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Crimmins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25AM. Commissioner George seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.