

**Economic Development Commission**  
**Tuesday, March 29th, 2011- 7:00 p.m.**  
**Canterbury Municipal Drive, 1 Municipal Drive**

**MINUTES\***

**I. Call to Order**

A. Tillinghast called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Members present: A. Tillinghast, R. Curtis, J. Fritzsche, C. Wellinghausen, J. Tucker  
Members absent: L. Northrop, S. Sheridan, A. Mierzejewski, H. Tuttle  
Others present: D. Pindell, S. Donahue, K. Pescatello

R. Curtis made a motion to add several items of discussion to the agenda. J. Tucker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**III. Minutes- February 21, 2011**

J. Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**IV. Public Participation**

D. Pindell, of the Agricultural Commission, discussed the "Meet your Neighbor's Night" the Commission and the library will be sponsoring on May 6, 2011 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the municipal building. She stated there would be representatives of businesses and agricultural businesses in town in attendance. D. Pindell stated that she was open to suggestions for advertising the event. R. Tillinghast stated that in the past the commission has hung up posters throughout town for various events and advertised on the paper and the radio. D. Pindell stated the Agricultural Commission would work on a flyer. R. Curtis suggested giving the flyer to M. Gil in the Land Use Office, and have her distribute to the various Commissions through email. A. Tillinghast suggested they focus on agricultural businesses.

R. Curtis made a motion to fund \$150.00 for advertising for the Agricultural Commission's "Meet your Neighbor's Night". The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

S. Donahue of 501 Brooklyn Road stated he was interested on serving on the Commission during the summer and during the next school year. He stated he was currently a freshman at Wesleyan. He discussed what strengths he could bring to the Commission. He also had grant writing experience. He gave the members his phone number and email address to contact him about openings.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Review budget negotiation**

The proposed budget was discussed. A. Tillinghast stated that the EDC still had \$3,000 in grant money available. The Commission would use this for their website. This brought the budget proposal to \$6,400.

**B. Sheridan report on gravel operations and regulations/Space for Business Incubator to advertise.**

J. Sheridan gave the members a report on his investigation into several items. He met with C. Miller of C.L. Services who has space available for the incubator concept. He stated that there were three spaces available for this. A. Tillinghast suggested the Commission read through J. Sheridan's report in regards to the gravel regulations and discuss it at the next meeting.

**C. Business Directory**

A. Tillinghast stated that he would work on the third edition of the business directory next week. The members discussed the best way to advertise to new businesses and those who may want to be in the newest edition. A. Tillinghast stated that he thinks agricultural should be included. Several members say they would put up flyers around town.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Discussion to set deadline and responsibilities for the following subjects:**

They members reviewed the minutes from last month to discuss Old Business

- **Researching/hiring grant writer: Example of business materials, software at Library-** J. Tucker was looking into funding from the Foundation Center in New York City. It is \$60 a year for an individual subscriber. For a profession organization it could cost up to \$1,000 a year. J. Tucker stated that S. Donahue has successfully written grants. The Commission continued to discuss getting grants to assist businesses. J. Fritzsche suggested the Commission hold a workshop in the future for businesses and grants.
- **Work on an EDC Website/Business calendar-** R. Curtis suggested the website be a reoccurring item on the agenda. This would be titled, "Website and Social Media".
- **Develop a marketing plan: Eco-tourism/agricultural tourism, Quinebaug River, Route 169, farmer's market, A Canterbury "brand", business attraction/tax incentive policy-**  
The Commission briefly discussed the "Come to Stay and Play" idea.

The Commission discussed holding a "Canterbury Fall Festival" day on Saturday, October 22, 2011 in conjunction with Walktober.

- **Prudence Crandall Museum-** J. Fritzsche stated she spoke to the director and was told the State was getting a new Tourism Commissioner, Christopher Bergstrum. It was suggested that the EDC write to him asking him to attend a meeting to discuss the happenings in town. D. Pindell stated the Ag Commission would also endorse this letter.

They Commission discussed upcoming events at the museum and how, if possible, the EDC could join up with these events. The Commission discussed the need for a sign along Interstate 395 about the museum and would discuss this with C. Bergstrum as well. R. Curtis stated he would talk with B. Sear about pushing for the sign. J. Fritzsche stated she would contact C. Coutu as well.

S. Donahue stated he would send a letter to area schools discussing the importance of students visiting the museum.

- **Work with Board of Education in student business program-**

- **Work with other towns EDC's, Regional Director**

A.Tillinghast stated he met with Brooklyn's Economic Development Commission. R. Curtis stated that he would ask B. Sear what EDC zone Canterbury was in.

J. Fritzsche stated the owner of Lilac's and Lilies of Plainfield asked if she could attend an EDC meeting in Canterbury for Plainfield does not have an EDC. A. Tillinghast told her to tell her she was welcome to.

A.Tillinghast stated that the Last Green Valley asked him to sit on the Board of Directors to help with fundraising. He stated he could not but asked the members if anyone would be interested in serving.

- **EDC representative Agricultural Commission-** A. Mierzejewski attended the last meeting of the Ag Commission. D. Pindell stated that M. Mierzejewski agreed to be an alternate on the Commission. J. Fritzsche would attend the Ag meetings. D. Pindell stated they met the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

**B. Support R&R RV park**

R. Curtis stated that R. LaRose was in the process of getting approval for some drainage work before the Wetlands Commission. R. Curtis and H. Tuttle were at the meeting and spoke in support of this proposal. He stated that if this is approved, it may bring people to the area.

**C. Application for Designation of Quinebaug River Corridor as an recognized Connecticut Greenway**

R. Curtis received the Selectmen's consent to fill out the DEP paperwork to designate the area between the two boat launches on the Quinebaug River as a Connecticut Greenway. He said he would update the Commission at the next meeting.

**D. Canterbury Cones**

W. DeWolf wants to expand his business. He contacted A. Tillinghast about this. W. DeWolf stated he wanted to have live music at the site. A. Tillinghast suggested he get his neighbors consent before applying.

Labbe farm has baby goats and the south end of the Knollwood Plaza has been occupied with Knot Just Kitchens.

A.Tillinghast stated he recently took a fundraising position that will keep him away from the EDC for several months. He stated that R. Curtis agreed to, as Vice-Chairman, be in charge of running the meetings and making the agenda. R. Curtis stated that there were

several members who do not show up and asked if he could contact the Selectmen to fill the seats. R. Tillinghast stated that as S. Sheridan was resigning, his seat would be filled.

**VII. Adjournment**

J. Tucker made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa E. Gil  
Land Use Secretary  
\*as recorded

Cc: EDC members; Town Clerk; EDC file