

**Economic Development Commission
Monday, November 26, 2012- 7:00 p.m.
Canterbury Town Hall, 1 Municipal Drive**

Special Meeting

MINUTES

I. Call to Order –

J. Tucker called the meeting at 7:02

II. Roll Call

Members present: J. Tucker, C. Wellinghausen, S. Donahue, J. Fritzsche, A. Mierzejewski

Members absent: R. Tuttle, E. Swanson

III. Minutes- September 25, 2012

C. Wellinghausen made a motion to approve the minutes. J. Tucker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

J. Tucker reviewed the Commission's expenses for the Fall Festival and the Meet and Greet. She gave each member a treasurer's report. She stated that \$155 was spent on the fall festival.

J. Tucker informed the Commission that Wright's Mill was charging \$12/person for appetizer up to 75. She stated she would like the Commission's approval on this expenditure. She stated that T. Thornton has agreed to perform the music at the event for \$250. J. Fritzsche got a great deal on the invitations.

S. Donahue made a motion to approve funds for the 100 invitees and one guess per invitee at a \$12/person rate, with the maximum of \$1,200 spent on food. J. Tucker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Public Participation- None

VI. Old Business

A. Website and Social Media

The annual website page has been paid. S. Donahue discussed his ideas on for the EDC website. He stated some of the photographs have to be updated. The Commission discussed different ideas and thoughts for updating the website. A. Mierzejewski asked if the business directory had been updated. There were several businesses that have to be added such as D&G, and The Booze Barn.

J. Tucker asked if several members could volunteer to contact the businesses that may/may not be still active.

B. Greenways

S. Donahue stated he planned to follow up with L. Greenwich about federal funding to improve billboards and postings along the greenway. J. Tucker suggested that S. Donahue submit for mileage reimbursement for attending these meetings.

C. Tourism

J. Fritzsche stated that Connecticut tourism was still at odds between the Eastern Regional Tourism District and Mystic Coast and Country. She explained that one organization owned the website, while one is in charge of the site. She stated they still hold monthly meetings. They just completed an "Antique Trails" in Connecticut brochure.

J. Fritzsche stated that there were eighteen boaters during the fall paddling event. She stated there was a fishing tournament going on during the same time. J. Tucker stated that this appeared like a traditional fishing tournament and the Commission would have to choose another date next year for the event because the area became too congested.

D. Incubator

S. Donahue and J. Fritzsche came up with the idea of a "Business Intervention Program" that would try and obtain funding for businesses to address any needs they may have. J. Tucker stated that they also need to focus on less office related businesses such as distribution and trucking, etc. S. Donahue stated they were looking to conduct a survey at the meet and greet for businesses to find what their needs are. J. Tucker asked that the members receive the survey before the meet and greet. A. Mierzejewski stated the survey should go on the website.

E. Communication and Business Referrals

J. Tucker stated she recently gave a presentation to the Agricultural Commission about how to start a business in Canterbury. She stated that it was well received.

F. Business Meet & Greet – December 6 & Fall Festival recap

The members discussed the Fall Festival and what changes they intend to make for next year. They discussed changing the time of year the festival was held. The hurricane seems to affect the turnout of the event. The Commission decided to continue this discussion.

The members discussed the Business Meet and Greet. J. Fritzsche mailed out invites and A. Mierzejewski emailed invites for the Meet and Greet. The members discussed the format of the evening. J. Fritzsche suggested that Wright's Mill receive a business plaque with a thank you for holding the event. She stated that Jobina Milller of Bean Counting needs a ribbon cutting ceremony.

A. Mierzejewski explained the 3/50 program. J. Tucker was going to discuss this at the meet and greet. J. Fritzsche stated that she would discuss the "Welcome Wagon" idea. The members discussed the seating arrangements. The members felt it would be beneficial for B. Sear to speak briefly at the meet and greet.

G. Gagnon signs

J. Tucker stated she spoke with A. Botello about the town business signs. She was informed that the signs at the junction of Route 14 and Route 169 are on the street poles but there were no spaces left for additional signs. They are state roads and the town needed permission to put them in the right-of-way. She stated the Wright's Mill Farm signs cannot be placed in the intersection at this time for this reason, but the other signs Wright's Farm has requested have been installed. J. Fritzsche stated the Fritzsche Financial no longer needed the business signs.

H. Plan of Conservation & Development- Not discussed

I. Route 169 Corridor- Not discussed

J. Sponsor Letter- J. Tucker stated that she created a sponsor letter that could be placed on the website. The sponsor letter is geared toward the Fall Festival. The members would like to discuss using the funds for different events.

K. P&Z submission and report- Not discussed

L. Membership

There were several vacancies on the commission. The members suggested adding this question to the survey.

VII. New Business – None

VIII. Correspondence- S. Donahue discussed a workshop he attended recently.

IX. Any other appropriate business

J. Fritzsche stated she would get an update from B. Sear on the commercial kitchen.

X. Adjournment

J. Tucker made a motion to adjourn. J. Fritzsche seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Gil
Land Use Secretary

*as recorded

Cc: EDC members; Town Clerk; EDC file