

TOWN OF DURHAM

Economic Development Commission P.O. Box 428 Durham, CT 06422

Minutes of June 24, 2008, Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order in the Durham Public Library at 7:22 p.m. by Chairman Rick Hanley. EDC members Peter Casini, Ona McLaughlin, and Diana McCain were present. Members Carl Montagano, Hugh Curley, and Gary Sheldon were absent. First Selectman Laura Francis was in attendance. Diana McCain was asked to take minutes of the meeting in Carl Montagano's absence.

Ona McLaughlin moved and Diana McCain seconded that the minutes of the June 24, 2008, meeting be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick Hanley reported that correspondence had been received concerning the cost of a municipal membership in the Site Finder web site, which is \$550 for one year. The funds for this membership must come out of the EDC budget which will not be available until after July 1, when the town's budget year starts. Ona McLaughlin moved, and Peter Cascini seconded, that EDC take out a one-year membership in Site Finder after July 1. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick Hanley reported on correspondence received concerning filmmakers shooting movies in the state. There was discussion of how Durham might take advantage of this development, in particular making filmmakers aware of possible shooting locations in town. There was also discussion of the possibility of creating a local governmental body to promote Durham to potential filmmakers. The idea was tabled for inclusion in a future meeting agenda.

In Gary Sheldon's absence there was no report from the Existing Businesses Subcommittee.

Laura Francis brought to the EDC's attention the fact that the former Lake Grove School property, which has been Durham's top taxpayer, is being offered for sale or lease. The property is currently zoned farm/residential with a special permit. There was discussion of the effect of rezoning part or all of the property to either commercial or design dwelling status. Laura Francis proposed that she and the EDC invite the owner of the property and the realtor handling it to meet to discuss possibilities for the property's future.

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The idea of applying some of the money budgeted for consulting to retain Brian Miller to confer about possible uses for the property was proposed. It was pointed out that the funds for a consultant also would not be available until after July 1. Noting that timing could be critical, Rick Hanley would contact Brian Miller about a contract for his services. Rick would be out-of-state until July 8, so Peter Cascini was appointed the contact to receive a proposed contract from Brian Miller and distribute it via e-mail to EDC members, and have Laura Francis e-mail it to the town attorney for examination. Members would be asked to submit any comments on the contract to Peter. After July 1, and after all comments have been submitted to Peter and the document revised if necessary, a special meeting of the EDC would be scheduled, if necessary, before the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 22, to approve the contract.

Resident Joseph Pasquale of Parmalee Hill Road spoke about the fact that the Lake Grove property could represent an opportunity for economic development. He suggested that perhaps the EDC might want to meet jointly with the Planning & Zoning Commission to discuss potential uses for the property.

There was brief discussion about the foreclosure on the house and land owned by Vin Baker, which has been the fourth largest property tax payer in town.

Ona McLaughlin reported on the newly established Farmers' Market being held Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. on the town green. She said that it has been very successful, with 10 vendors participating, many of whom sold out their product.

There was discussion of the status of water service on Main Street, including the possibility of state funding for connecting the firehouse and other houses, and for a study of the possibility of connecting with Middletown.

Diana McCain moved, and Peter Cascini seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved unanimously at 8:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, at 7 p.m., at the Durham Public Library.

Prepared and submitted by:

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