

Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 10, 2012

Present: Steven Santino  
Ed Shapiro  
Dick Gada  
John Jensen

Also Present: Mark Christiansen  
Tony Sheridan  
Mark Nickerson

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to Order. Chairman Santino called the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting of April 10, 2012 to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Santino asked for corrections, additions or deletions to the March 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission.

MOTION: Ed Shapiro moved to approve the March 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission, as presented.  
Seconded by John Jensen. Mr. Gada  
abstained from voting. Motion carried. (3-0-1)

3. Delegations-Tony Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut. Mr. Sheridan reported the past four years have been difficult. It has become necessary to work harder to stay even. The Chamber has approximately 1,600 members. It ended the year with \$3,200 in surplus from its \$1.1 million budget.

The Chamber has been focusing on tourism more than ever. Tourism is a huge part of our economy. This Town is in a great spot, but there are many out-of-towners who do not realize this area is on the shoreline.

The Chamber has perfected its email delivery. We are able to send 5,800 emails. He suggested that this Commission prepare email addresses for all businesses in the Town of East Lyme.

The Chamber has submitted a grant application for cultural and heritage trails.

Mr. Jensen asked about Pfizer and EB. Mr. Sheridan felt they were solid companies.

Mr. Sheridan felt the casinos tie in with tourism. They also create jobs.

Mr. Nickerson felt Rt. 11 affects this Town.

Mr. Sheridan felt the Tourist Information is important to East Lyme. Mr. Gada felt volunteers are needed. Mr. Nickerson suggested advertising for volunteers. Mr. Sheridan suggested a part time either be hired as state or regional employee who would be responsible for setting up internship and summer jobs for college students. The Chamber has helped the Tourist Information Center in New London.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

## B. Reports

1. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Nickerson felt the Agri-Business Subcommittee has given this Commission a purpose.

Mr. Nickerson suggested that the Chairpersons of ELBOW and East Lyme Chamber of Commerce should be invited to meetings of this Commission.

He suggested that volunteers for the Visitors Center be sought through the Town website, Senior Center and/or school system.

2. Chairman's Report. Mr. Santino informed the Commission his work will require that he spend time in another state and finds it necessary to resign in June.

Mr. Santino reported Brian Kennedy is unable to be present because he is attending Part II of an Economic Development Seminar tonight at the Groton Motor Inn & Suites.

3. Presentation of Bills. The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 2.75 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from March 13, 2012 to April 5, 2012.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to pay the bill from the Recording Secretary for 2.75 hours of secretarial services from March 13, 2012 to April 5, 2012.  
Seconded by Mr. Gada. (5-0) Unanimous.

## C. Old Business

1. Agri-Business Committee. Mark Christiansen reported the Agri-Business Committee is working on its Trail Ride. We would like to place two classified ads in the Stead Read (one now and a larger one in the summer). The Trail Ride will take place on October 21. It will be a 10-15 mile trail ride, with music and entertainment. Mr. Shapiro wondered if it would be too cold at that time of year. Mr. Christiansen replied it could be. There is a 4H group called the Feather and Fur who want to help with the Trail Ride. They need a \$50 donation in order to begin.

Mr. Christiansen stated we did not get the grant for the Trail Ride. We will work on a grant for the Farmers Market. It is due mid-November. Grants are up to \$40,000.

Jennifer McTernan would like to speak to the Board of Selectmen on how to set up a lease for Town owned land. She is working with 15 towns.

We received an Agriculture Proclamation.

We have worked on chicken regulations.

MOTION: Mr. Shapiro moved to authorize the Agri-Business Subcommittee to draw down \$220.00 remaining in the Parks and Recreation Trail Ride Account. Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (4-0)

2. Next Steps for the EDC. This Commission is considering changing from monthly to quarterly meetings. If it is necessary to have an additional meeting a Special Meeting can be scheduled.

D. New Business

1. Open Discussion. There was no further discussion.

E. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to adjourn the April 10, 2012 Regular Meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary