

Town of East Haven, CT
Economic Development Commission Minutes
February 27, 2012
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PRESENT: Chairman Limoncelli
Commissioner Pacelli
Commissioner Bittner
Commissioner Serio

STAFF: Arthur L. DeSorbo, Dir.

ABSENT: Commissioner Alvarado

Chairman Limoncelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Chairman Limoncelli also thanked everyone for their time in coming tonight and their commitment to the Town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Chairman Limoncelli and seconded by Commissioner Pacelli to table the minutes of the October Meeting that were distributed by e-mail. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director DeSorbo stated that despite all that is going on right now in Town; he has been very busy meeting with Town Fair Tire, and Calabro Cheese to discuss their plans of expansion. Both owners were promised assistance for expansion and unfortunately nothing was done until Director DeSorbo came back. Town Fair was going to leave EH to go to Branford and they also lease property in West Haven. They truly wanted to stay in Town and will work with Director DeSorbo to see what could be done. There was discussion with regard to the relocation of Proto Drive, which had always been on the record as something to help this situation. Seeing the Town purchased the old restaurant for a new Fire Station, which didn't come to fruition, Director DeSorbo thinks that this will now work seeing the Town owns the property. He has already been in contact with the DEP and the Army Corps of Engineering to get re-approval for this project. Once that occurs he will bring the plan to the Commission. A discussion was held with regard to what the previous plan for this project was and what the Town could do to make it happen. More information will be available in the coming months.

Director DeSorbo also spoke about the Industrial Park and the landfill. There was discussion of maybe putting security cameras there as there has been some vandalism, as well as getting new signs. Unfortunately the Industrial Park is 25-30% vacant and Director DeSorbo is working on possibly getting new tenants. He will be scheduling a meeting with all the tenants in the Industrial Park once the weather warms, to discuss things, which the commission would attend as well.

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Director DeSorbo also spoke about Frontage Road. Home Goods is leaving and the owner of the complex is already in talks with a company that has an interest in the space, as well as the space that houses the Teen Center. If that happens, we will look for another home for the Teen Center. There are currently negotiations going on with 3 businesses for a spot in Town.

With regard to Tyler Street, there were 6 developers interested in the property. The Town Attorney is looking into whether the referendum that was included on Election Day is binding. More information will be available in the near future.

The technical school that was interested in the old A&P store is no longer interested in that space. There may also be an announcement in the near future about a large Business Expo that is leaving Hartford and is looking to come to East Haven. Director DeSorbo will give more details to the commission once he gets them.

Director DeSorbo stated that he is looking forward to working with the new commission members and has always had the utmost cooperation with the commission since he was a part of it back in 1985 to the present. He asked that Commissioner Bittner make sure he gets sworn in as a member.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was talk about possibly bringing back the EDC Breakfast, with assistance from the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion was held with regard to how previous ones were done. More information would be brought up in the future with regard to this function, which was always well received and attended.

There being no further business to come before the agency, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:52 p.m. by Commissioner Pacelli and seconded by Commissioner Serio. All were in favor, none opposed, and none abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna
Clerk