

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 17, 2008

Chairman Musante called to order the Special Meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 6:00 PM, Shelton Economic Development Corporation, 475 Howe Avenue, Suite 202, Shelton, CT 06484.

The following Commissioners were present to constitute a quorum:

Fred Musante, Chairman
Fred Ruggio
Dr. Robert Burlison
Kate Marks (arrived 6:10 p.m.)

Member Absent: Karen McGovern - excused

Also Present: James E. Ryan, President, Shelton Economic Development Corporation

MEETING ON TAPE, ON FILE, CITY/TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (1 TAPE)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2008 REGULAR MEETING:

<p><i>Commissioner Burlison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 20, 2008. Commissioner Ruggio seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.</i></p>
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REVIEW AND UPDATE OF ONGOING PROJECTS:

Community/Business Newsletter

Chairman Musante commented on the latest issue that was published and is being distributed and said that feedback has been very positive. The bar is raised with each issue as we include more color, photographs and a variety of articles. Work will commence on the September newsletter at a meeting on Monday, June 30, at noon, at SEDC. The objective will be to allocate the pages. There are sufficient articles to fill the issue. Tentative date for publication is mid-September.

Annual Report

By mid-November or early December the specifications for preproduction and printing will be ready to go out for bid.

Flag Day Picnic – June 13, 2008

Discussion was held. Chairman Musante commented that this was probably the best picnic we have had. Commissioner Ruggio noted it was difficult to hear the speakers at the end of the tent. Chairman Musante said the podium will be placed to the side next year. It is hoped to make the Barnum road show a regular feature at future picnics.

(Note: Commissioner Kate Marks arrived – 6:10 p.m.)

Tribute to Richard Belden – June 14, 2008

The event was discussed. Mr. Ryan commented that Bert Belden was very pleased and stopped by to express her appreciation.

Breakfast Meeting – Late October 2008

Mr. Ryan suggested the Commission consider planning a small breakfast meeting for approximately 30-40 businesses, with an emphasis on new businesses to the City. This will be added to our next agenda.

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REPORT OF JAMES RYAN, PRESIDENT, SEDC:

Mr. Ryan gave a presentation of SEDC's activities. Topics of discussion were Samarius, Axton Cross, Rolfite, Spongex, Canal Street upgrades; Riverwalk extension; temporary closing of railroad crossing relative to overall traffic plan for Canal Street and Wooster Street. Commissioner Ruggio expressed concern over the Railroad's desire to relocate or extend the tracks to accommodate larger freight trains. Further discussion of railroad crossing. Mr. Ryan stated that the redevelopment director has reported today that he has a deal on the Spongex property, which means the program will continue despite the turndown in the market. SEDC's full Board will meet on July 8 and the Commission is invited to attend.

Mr. Ryan thanked Kate Marks for taking a leadership position on the Derby-Shelton Bridge renovation project and said she made it happen. Information from Jim Tate's report could be included in the newsletter.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Commissioner Ruggio stated he met with Finance and was able to reach agreement with our current budget balances. There are some outstanding bills to be paid, but finances are in good shape. The 2008-09 budget request was cut by just \$2,000.

AREA PROJECTS:

Valley Transit District

Chairman Musante said VTD is progressing well and the Mayor is tireless in his efforts to make it succeed.

Long Range Plan

Chairman Musante said Planning and Zoning continues to be mindful of the Long Range Plan.

Derby-Shelton Bridge

The Commission is involved with this Derby/Shelton Rotary project. The newsletter will cover the project considerably giving a history of the bridge and plans for improvement and updating. Commissioner Marks will have more information at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

As discussed at our last meeting, the President of the Beaver Dam Lake Association of Stratford requested to receive prior written notification of all meetings of Economic Development Commission, in accordance with Freedom of Information. Mr. Ryan confirmed that information on our meeting schedule was sent to the Association. Clerk was asked to notify the Association if any Special Meetings are scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion of plans for a pavilion for Riverwalk Park, a project which is 3-4 years out. Commissioner Marks said the proceeds from Rotary's Steak and Lobster Bake on August 2 will be allocated to an account to be used toward the pavilion project. Mr. Ryan suggested there needs to be site planning and a joint meeting of the various groups involved.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Ruggio moved to adjourn at 6:45 PM. Commissioner Marks seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Diane Luther, Clerk
Economic Development Commission

DATE APPROVED BY MEMBERS:

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN JULY. THE NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 19, AT 6:00 PM, AT THE OFFICE OF SHELTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.