

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Jan. 15, 2009 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr Jr., Charles Alfano Jr., Russ Cobb, Roger Tracy, Susan Thorner, alts. Lynda Montefusco, Brian Banak
Also present: EDC Director Patrick McMahon, Town Planner Bill Hawkins, Zoning Enforcement Officer James Taylor

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes – Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2008 meeting; Mr. Alfano seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Zoning Changes – Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Taylor displayed a map which showed the proposed zoning changes, on approximately 500 acres of land, from PDIP to Industrial. They reviewed the proposed changes in detail. If approved, these changes would make Suffield more competitive. The Zoning and Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and abutting property owners would be notified. After a discussion, Ms. Thorner moved that the Economic Development Commission send a letter to the Zoning and Planning Commission endorsing the proposed zoning changes (PDIP to Industrial) as documented and presented by the Town Planner and the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Mr. Cobb seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

2009 – 2010 Proposed Budget – Mr. McMahon distributed copies of the proposed budget. After a review of the budget, Ms. Thorner moved to approve the proposed budget as presented by the EDC Director; Mr. Tracy seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Director's Report - The capital campaign for the new Senior Center has begun. Mr. McMahon distributed copies of a report, Senior Center, New Facility Gifting Opportunities. The Hartford Foundation for Giving is reviewing the Town's application, and grants should be announced within 60 days.

He has submitted to ACCE, a request to extend water and sewer along Route 75. He wants to do a feasibility study, and at this point in time, is not requesting funds but informing ACCE of intent and need.

STEAP Application – Mr. McMahon reported that the BOS and BOF have approved a STEAP application for the following projects: 1) expand of landfill cell - \$235,000, 2) Suffield Section of the Farmington Valley Greenway - \$75,000, and 3) generators for the Police Station and for the new Senior Center - \$90,000.

Farmland Preservation – An application for Farmland Preservation grant for the purchase of development rights of 40 acres will be submitted.

Bridge Street School Study Committee will present its final report to the Board of Selectmen Jan. 21.

The Town Center Village District expansion was approved by the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Plan of Conservation and Development – Mr. Hawkins noted that the Zoning and Planning Commission has sought proposals for the revision of this document. The estimated cost (outsourced) may be \$50 – 90,000. Mr. Banak serves on this committee. Mr. Hawkins will keep the EDC updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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