

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission  
Jan. 17, 2008 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr Jr., Russ Cobb, Susan Thorner, Lynda Montefusco  
Absent: Charles Alfano Jr., Roger Tracy, Brian Banak  
Also present: EDC Director Patrick McMahon

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. He accorded voting rights to Ms. Montefusco for the absent Mr. Alfano.

Minutes – Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the Dec. 20, 2007 meeting; Mr. Cobb seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Biodiesel Project – Mr. McMahon reminded members that the Public Hearing for CTBiodiesel before the Zoning and Planning Commission is scheduled for Jan. 23, 2008 in the High School auditorium at 7 p.m. A fact sheet will be available for the residents. A Host Community agreement is currently being negotiated in the event of Z & P approval.

Budget for FY 08-09 – Mr. McMahon distributed copies of the proposed budget. The budget is the same as last year's. The First Selectman has requested that all salary line items be kept flat until his budget review. The proposed budget does not include funds for a Community Center Investigation or any activities related to Hilltop Farm and Open Space Management. After a review, the Commission accepted the budget as presented by the EDC Director.

Industrial Road update – The survey is behind schedule. It is anticipated that the bid specifications will be completed by late spring and the project will go out to bid.

Director's Report – Mr. McMahon noted that Hilltop Farm has completed the repair of the roof which was funded by a grant. A Farmers Market Study is ongoing; this is funded by a Farm Viability grant. The goal is to improve and to expand the Farmers Market. The Town is still waiting to hear from the Small Cities grant program; if awarded, a grant would fund the purchase of the Calvary Church for use as a Senior Center. The Town now owns Bennett Road property. The Historic District has a new study which reports that the existing Library could be expanded; the HD will convey this report to the KML Building Committee. The Babbs Roller Rink Project now has architectural plans for the restoration of the rink; estimated cost \$1-2 million. The Chamber of Commerce Showcase is scheduled for Feb. 10. A Farmers Meeting is scheduled for Jan 30; to discuss promotion of local farms. Mr. McMahon announced that George Hermann, President of First National Bank of Suffield will be joining the Board of Directors of the Bradley Development League (BDL).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

EDC.M.JAN.17.08