

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Feb. 21, 2008 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Howard Orr Jr., called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

The minutes of the January 17, 2008 meeting: Mr. Tracy moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Citizen Input: None

First Selectman Report: None

Director's Report:

Industrial Roadway Update – The survey work is complete. He will update the members of further progress by email.

Business Showcase - This Showcase was the best attended. It affords the opportunity for businesses to attract new clients and affords the business community to interact with each other.

A new business will be coming to Suffield; Teliris, to be located at 1160 South Street.

The Board of Selectmen approved three STEAP grant applications:

1. Planning Study for the Relocation of the Highway Garage - \$250,000.
2. An Additional playing field, Sullivan Field - \$60,000.
3. Lighting of Packard Field, Bruce Park - \$190,000.

He will go before the Board of Finance for approval of the applications, Monday, Feb. 24, 2008.

A Farmers Market Study has been completed by Laura Dillman and John Smith. The study makes recommendations to promote the Market. A copy of this study can be obtained from the EDC Director.

The Hilltop Farm Shared Kitchen Feasibility Study has been completed. Copies of this report can be obtained from the EDC Director.

An AG PROMOTION Committee is working on a brochure, highlighting the "Open to the Public" farms in Suffield.

The Town did not receive the Small Cities grant, \$750,000, which would have been used to purchase the Calvary Church for use as a Senior Center. The Town may apply again in May.

The Board of Selectmen voted to support plans for a \$13.7 million public library as recommended by the Building Committee at the Selectmen's meeting, held Feb. 20, 2008.

The future of the Bridge Street School was discussed. The EDC has requested to be a part of and to be involved in the decision making process regarding the use and future of the Bridge Street School. The Bridge Street School property is a municipal asset and should remain so. The EDC is not favorable to testing the sale to private entities.

Town Center Project – The DOT has accepted the new traffic signal at the intersection of Ff Tyler Place and Mountain Road. The final payment will soon be made to C.J. Fucci.

At 9:15 a.m., Mr. Charles Alfano recused himself for the CT Biodiesel discussion and left the meeting room.

The EDC discussed the Zoning and Planning Commission public hearing on the CT Biodiesel proposal which was held Feb. 14, 2008. The hearing has been continued until the March 6 Z & P meeting.

A Public Informational Hearing on the Babbs Beach Roller Rink project was held at the KML. Architectural plans have been drawn. The cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$900,000 to at least get the building operational.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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