

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Feb. 16, 2012 – Town Hall Conference Room – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Roger Tracy, Susan Thorner, Lynda Montefusco, Gloria Smith, Caroline D'Otreppe Absent; B. Banak
Also present: Patrick McMahon, EDC Director

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 20, 2012 meeting as amended by corrected name spelling. Mr. Tracy seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Ff Tyler Place Redevelopment - Mr. McMahon reported that there had been 9 first responses; 4 firms were interviewed. The contract will be awarded to Camoin Associates of New York for the Feasibility Study of Ff Tyler Place Redevelopment. The firm is very experienced and well qualified. The study will be conducted in 90 days. Proposals will be made with the Highway Garage on the site, and with the Highway Garage moved to another location.

The EDC Director has been directed to moved forward and solicit Requests for Proposals for the Bridge Street School.

The repairs of the Kent Memorial Library should be completed by the end of March, and then the Library will move back into the building.

The Town will file a CDBG(Small Cities) grant application for \$500,000 to address the ADA issues in the Kent Memorial Library.

Mr. McMahon noted that the President of the Art Council, Joe Gerviso, has been approached by the First Church of Christ, UCC to see if the Church Parsonage could serve as an Art Center. This suggestion for the building's use will be investigated.

Town Center Activities - Mr. McMahon has asked Elaine O'Brien, our State Representative for the 61st District to seek funds for the extension of utilities down Route #75.

Mach One Industrial Park – There is viable interest in Lots 13 and 14.

Director's Report

Mr. McMahon reported that the Connecticut Southern Railroad is planning to abandon the approximately 21 acres of rail line which runs into Suffield. The First Selectman is trying to preserve the railroad structure and is negotiating acquisition. The EDC Director will keep the Commission informed.

Babbs Beach - The CRC is discussing a possible lease with the Soccer Club to use Babbs Beach as a sports training center.

Cell Towers – The Town has executed a letter of intent to extend the three cell tower contracts for 20 years, with 4 year renewal terms. There will be an increase from 25% to 35% from the rental revenue per year. There is an upfront payment of \$150,000 to be paid within six months of the lease extension.

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

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary EDC.Minutes.Feb.16.2012