

**EAST HAVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Dennis Amendola
Commissioner Paul Burns
Commissioner John Serio
Commissioner Frank Alvarado

STAFF PRESENT:

Sarah Morrill

Chairman Amendola called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Alvarado made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, Chairman Serio seconded. Commissioner Burns had questions regarding the minutes with regard to Town Fair Tire and Calabro Cheese. He stated that it was not a true statement and explained that Calabro was given first option on land but not the whole parcel and that there were still issues that had not been resolved. Chairman Amendola stated that the letter does not promise a size or price, but that when a piece became available the size and price would be determined then. After much discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Serio to amend minutes as corrected. Commissioner Burns seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed and Commissioner Alvarado abstained.

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no Director's Report as Paul Hongo was not present.

DISCUSS AND TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION ON FRONTAGE ROAD

Mr. Arthur DeSorbo was in attendance at this meeting and wished to make a correction from the last meeting when he spoke. Mr. DeSorbo is the former Director of the EDC and stated that with regard to the incentives for Home Depot, the numbers for the construction were not ready until after he left office. The agreement mirrors closely with what CarMax was given. He also stated the he thinks it would be a grave mistake not to offer the incentives to businesses, which was developed by Mayor Luzzi as a tool to encourage businesses to come to the town and to not offer anything would send a terrible signal to developers who were looking into bringing business to East Haven.

Commissioner Alvarado stated that he is sure that Home Depot has the best Attorneys and that they wouldn't have built a store without agreements in place and if they did, the Town should not be responsible. Commissioner Burns asked Mr. DeSorbo if there were files on hand with regards to the construction or were there any problems. Chairman Amendola stated that as far as he knew there were no problems. It was stated that it was Mayor Capone Almons' stand was that she couldn't see giving up tax credits to such a large business. It took 3 tries to finally get them here and all parties including the Town, the Town Assessor and the Mayor came together to help clinch the deal. In 5 or 6 years

the taxes paid by Home Depot would be more than the Town was collecting on the property before.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

There is nothing new to report at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

With regard to a Mission Statement, both Commissioner Serio and Commissioner Alvarado wrote down statements as to what they would like to see the EDC follow. It was discussed and Chairman Amendola stated that he would like the Commission to make their own notes and bring to the next meeting to discuss. Chairman Amendola opened the floor for questions at this time. There were questions regarding a new Rite Aid that is going up on Route 80 and questions of a medical center at the Old High School. Apparently a conversation was held at a meeting of Administrative Services and it was discussed on how to segregate that area from the Academy. It is going before the Town Council to discuss. Also Commissioner Burns asked if the Commission would be privy to negotiations or will they have to find out second hand as they did about the Rite Aid. It is embarrassing to be a Commissioner and have a member of the public ask what is going on with the construction of a Rite Aid when no one knew about it. Also he would feel offended if decisions are made without coming before this Board. A long discussion was held regarding this matter and it was decided to get clarification from Administration as to what projects are coming so that the Commission has the knowledge to inform residents.

CDC Director Sarah Morrill stated that the Legislative Breakfast was a success and would like to get the Commission more involved. At this time, Mr. Thomas Vanacore of 83 Robert Drive asked the Commission about the West End Revitalization and if there was any action going to be taken on it. Chairman Amendola stated that the grant monies are only covering up to Forbes Place right now and the intention was to go on further, but no one can tell right now what will be done. The Commission is in favor of extending the work from the New Haven line to the center. Mr. Vanacore thanked the Commission for their time. A question was asked regarding the construction going on next to Goody's and it was stated that they are condos being built by a private developer.

There being no more business to come before the Commission, a **MOTION** was made to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. by Commissioner Burns and seconded by Commissioner Serio. . All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna
Clerk