

Town of East Haven, CT
Economic Development Commission Minutes
July 23, 2012
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PRESENT: Chairman Robert Limoncelli
Commissioner Joe Bittner
Commissioner John Serio
Commissioner Frank Alvarado

STAFF: Arthur DeSorbo, Dir.

Chairman Limoncelli called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Commissioner Bittner and seconded by Commissioner Serio to approve the minutes of the June 25th Meeting that were distributed by e-mail. All were in favor, none were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director DeSorbo passes around copies of the Fairfield County Business Journal and the Westchester County Business Journal so the members could see the ad that was placed in each for recruiting companies to come "grow" with East Haven. All members were pleased with the location of the ads in the papers. Director DeSorbo stated that he will bring any information about leads that he gets because of the ad to the meeting next month.

Director DeSorbo then discussed the Trolley Visitor's Center. It is now up and running again 5 days a week from 9-1, and some days until 2. He was discussing the fact that he'd like to see local restaurants maybe have some discount coupons for travelers, placed at the trolley. He also discussed possibly having ads from local businesses inside the trolley similar to the way that buses had ads in them running along the top, which could raise some revenue for the trolley. Director DeSorbo has already asked the State about having a sign placed on the highway signs that there is a visitor center off exit 51. Questions were asked regarding the landscaping near the trolley and that it is being maintained by the hotel. The trolley is staffed with 2 people from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It did get a late start this year due to finances.

Director DeSorbo stated that he and the Mayor took a tour of the Town Fair Tire property and the Mayor was very impressed with their operation. They are eager to expand and can't wait to go forward once all pre planning stages are complete. Director DeSorbo has a meeting with the DOT this week to discuss the issues with the possible expansion of Proto Drive. He submitted a capital request for \$100,000 for work to be done in the

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Industrial Park which has been neglected for some time now. He would like to resurface Commerce Street, which is torn apart, install security cameras and a new fence in front of the landfill and build a cul-de-sac at the end of Commerce so that the tractor trailer trucks have a place to turn around without destroying private property. He's gotten several calls from tenants in the Industrial Park who have been concerned about the state of the park. There is also a call into the State regarding a property on Saltonstall Parkway for improvements and remediation for environmental issues. Director DeSorbo also stated he has some summer help that will be doing some plantings along Main Street in the planters as there are no flowers in there and are being used as trash receptacles, which they aren't made for.

The EDC breakfast, in conjunction with the Chamber, was discussed and more information will follow when details can be ironed out with regard to location and date. It is tentatively scheduled to be held at the new restaurant that is being built by Senator Fasano to replace the one that was damaged in last year's storm. More details will follow once they are made.

Lastly, Director DeSorbo stated that he had a meeting with the owner of the Sandpiper who is looking into expanding. He would like to use the outside seating as inside seating now and expand the outside seating up on a second floor. There were concerns about parking that could possibly be worked out, but no plans have been submitted to the Town. There is a subcommittee of the Town Council that was set up to discuss beach parking and how the Town can handle the non-residents that wish to use our beaches. Restaurant Week is also being discussed and more information will follow on that as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Alvarado asked about the old A & P building. Discussion held regarding the property and its status.

There being no further business to come before the agency, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 p.m. by Commissioner Serio and seconded by Commissioner Bittner. All were in favor, none opposed, and none abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna
Clerk