

East Lyme Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
June 8, 2010

Members Present: Steven Santino, John Jensen, Richard Gada
and Charles Ambulos

Also Present: Mark Christiansen, Arthur Carlson and Marvin Schutt

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to Order. Chairman Steven Santino called the June 8, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Santino asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the May 11, 2010, Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to approve the May 11,
2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic
Development Commission, as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Ambulos. (4-0) Unanimous

3. Delegations. There were no delegations at this time.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

5. Chairman's Report. Mr. Santino discussed farming as a subcommittee of this Commission with First Selectman Paul Formica. A liaison of this Commission will be needed to attend meetings of the subcommittee and report back to this Commission. The subcommittee may exist as long as they need to. It will need to develop a proposal for review by this Commission.

Mr. Jensen suggested Agra-business. Mr. Ambulos felt since this Commission needs a new member, a member of the subcommittee should be considered as a member of the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Santino discussed the development of goals of this Commission for 2010 with First Selectman Paul Formica. He would like to see a forum to bring local businesses together to work towards the economic future of East Lyme. He suggested that this Commission reach out to the ELBO, East Lyme Chamber and Niantic Main Street organizations to create an environment which would bring business into this community. Mr. Gada felt the East Lyme Beautification Committee should be included. Mr. Santino asked that members of this Commission discuss ideas at its July and September meetings.

Mr. Ambulos was pleased to see the increase in cars coming through Niantic since new restaurants have come to Town. He felt businesses should capture the visitors.

3. Presentation of Bills. The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 2.50 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from May 11, 2010 through June 1, 2010.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to pay the bill for the Recording Secretary for 2.50 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from May 11, 2010 through June 1, 2010.
Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 3.5 hours of secretarial work for the June 8 Economic Development Commission Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to approve the proposed time sheet for the Recording Secretary for secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission of no more than four hours. Seconded Mr. Gada.
(4-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Jensen asked what sum of money from this Commission's budget will be returned to the Town. Mr. Santino replied \$2,425.50 less final expenses.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to encumber an amount not to exceed \$1500 to support Celebrate East Lyme in the same manner as this Commission has in previous years. Seconded

by Mr. Gada. (4-0) Unanimous.

C. Old Business

1. Updates: Roles and Responsibilities. There was no discussion of Roles and Responsibilities.

2. Farming: Tom Kalal and Mark Christiansen. Mr. Jensen reported he sent an email to Tom Kalal requesting that a business plan be presented to this Commission by its July Meeting.

Mr. Christiansen reported they had a float during the Memorial Day Parade showing products produced on East Lyme farms. They also had horses, cattle and sheep. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hogan were on the float. Those attending seemed positive about agriculture remaining in East Lyme.

D. New Business

1. Open Space: Arthur Carlson and Marvin Schutt. Mr. Carlson presented the Town's Open Space Plan to the Commission. This plan began three years ago. He showed a map of 13,200 acres of Perceived Open Space (60%). With open space, the public controls it, and you can walk on it as you please. The Town has existing open space and institutional land. Its actual dedicated open space is 17%. He showed a plan of major watersheds and aquifers. Bride Brook (3,191 acres), Four Mile River (4,198 acres), Pattagansett River (5,663 acres) and the Niantic River (4,666 acres).

In the plan its natural resources elements were considered and rated as follows: Protection of our water supply was given 5 points, water access 4 points, agricultural lands 4 points, unique geological features 2 points and biodiversity 2 points.

When a Town's watershed has more than 10% impervious surface, its water quality is not as good. The Niantic River has increased in temperature by 3 degrees.

The Open Space Plan would like to see foot paths. Its vision is to see 30% of open space with fifty miles of foot paths.

Mr. Carlson stated it costs \$1.11 for every tax dollar raised for open land, and it would cost 30 cents for open space.

Mr. Jensen stated 2.1 children are needed for each unit in order to maintain our population. Mr. Carlson felt 2.1 children is an average across the state.

Mr. Carlson stated in a DEP extensive report 98% of those responding stated their favorite activity was either running, walking or hiking.

Mr. Carlson presented Mr. Santino with the Open Space Report dated May 19, 2009. Mr. Santino asked how the information has been given to residents? Mr. Carlson replied through displays at Celebrate East Lyme and through the school system. An email list is being developed.

Mr. Carlson felt it would be of value to have an Agricultural Subcommittee of this Commission.

2. Open Discussion. There was no additional discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to adjourn the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting of June 8, 2010 at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary