

Town of Hebron
Economic Development Commission
July 19, 2010
Regular Meeting
Hebron Town Hall, Main Conference Room

RECEIVED

2010 JUL 26 A 10:32

Ann E. Therrien
HEBRON TOWN CLERK
ASD

Members Present: Vickie Avelis, Lawrence Preston, Dottie Moon, Peter Casarella

Members Absent: Jon Lesisko

Alternates Absent: Bruce Raymond

Staff Present: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager

Chairman, V. Avelis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and recognized Guest Gayle Fisher, of 25 Bass Lake Road, Amston

Approval of Minutes: D. Moon motioned to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2010 meeting without changes. P. Casarella seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion only. The motion passed 3-0-1, with P. Casarella abstaining.

L. Preston motioned to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2010 Special Meeting without changes. D. Moon seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1, with P. Casarella abstaining.

Old Business

Discussion of Economic Development Incentive Program

V. Avelis notified the commission that the BOS approved the Tax Abatement Plan at their most recent meeting. B. Therrien stated that the application would be available on the website and was being distributed to department heads. V. Avelis inquired if it was possible to have applicants fill out the form online as well. B. Therrien offered to verify if there was a cost associated with that option, and offered to prepare a press release for the Rivereast Bulletin.

V. Avelis stated that several special meetings need to be scheduled to organize the developer tour. B. Therrien provided dates that the Metro Hartford Alliance representatives were available to discuss business visitation, and dates that the Simsbury Town Planner was available to discuss Fall Charrette. V. Avelis requested that commission members provide availability schedules directly to B. Therrien to coordinate the dates for the meetings.

V. Avelis discussed the need for an information packet for developers on the tour and suggested the packet include a map with a route marked, site overviews, contact information and other opportunities that are not part of the tour. V. Avelis also noted that a decision should be made on the time so coffee or lunch could be coordinated. B. Therrien suggested preparing a script for people to keep the tour on schedule. V. Avelis suggested having Selectman Jeff Watt and Town Manager Bonnie Therrien present in the morning and having Town Planner Michael O'Leary present in the afternoon. P. Casarella inquired what the seating capacity of the bus was. B. Therrien responded that the Senior Bus could accommodate 25, and that a school bus could be secured if attendance was anticipated to exceed that. B. Therrien noted that there was a dry run tentatively scheduled with M. O'Leary and the Metro Hartford Alliance on July 27 that would help to determine what items need further consideration. Brief discussion ensued about what properties to include on the tour, and possible timing for the tour. B. Therrien also suggested extending an invitation to bankers as well.

B. Therrien stated that the most recent article in the Hartford Business Journal highlighting Hebron has generated contact from four developers. Connecticut Real Estate Journal also offered a dramatic discount for space on page two of their pending issue.

P. Casarella inquired if the developer package would be available on the website. B. Therrien offered to speak with IT. V. Avelis suggested, if placing the package on the site was not feasible, to place a note directing interested parties to contact B. Therrien.

Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2010
Page 2

V. Avelis informed the commission that the BOS discussed the concept of an ordinance providing for Local Business Preference and will further discuss the topic at a public hearing on August 19, 2010. Commission members discussed their opinion of the proposed ordinance and how it could positively and negatively impact the bidding process for contractors. V. Avelis provided a handout (see attached) that represented a draft of the proposed ordinance.

B. Therrien stated that the deadline for application for the STEEP Grant expires on July 20, 2010 and that the BOS expressed interest in increasing the amount applied for. The commission discussed several projects that were applicable and had success in the past and agreed that they could benefit from the grant.

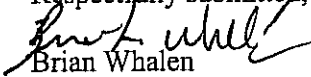
V. Avelis composed a motion to recommend including the façade program, plantings on Main Street, sidewalk connections, pedestrian crossings and the community sign project be reflected in the STEEP Grant application in an amount to be determined by the Town Manager. P. Casarella made the motion. L. Preston seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

V. Avelis offered to solicit a Letter of Recommendation from Representatives Pam Sawyer and Edith Prague for Hebron.

Adjourn

P. Casarella motioned to adjourn the meeting and D. Moon seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian Whalen
Board Clerk