

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
Sept. 18, 2008 – Town Hall – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Charles Alfano, Russ Cobb, Roger Tracy, Susan Thorner, alt.Linda Montefusco Absent: B. Banak
Also present: Patrick McMahon, EDC Director

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

*Minutes: Susan Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting; Mr. Alfano seconded. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Citizen Comment: None

First Selectman's Report: None

*Industrial Roadway Update: Mr. McMahon noted that construction is on going. The road is expected to be completed by November 26. Presently the project is waiting on Yankee Gas for the extension of the gas main. The project is currently within its budget.

*WMG Addition – Windsor Marketing Group is planning an expansion of approximately 40,000 sq. feet of warehouse space. WMG has been before Conservation Commission and will go before Zoning and Planning Commission Sept. 24.

By vote, the agenda was amended so that Item # 7 will go after Item #9.

*Economic Development Forum: The second Forum will be held Sept. 25, 2008 in the Senior Center. Citizen Comment will be allowed. The focus of this Forum will be the redevelopment of Ff Tyler Place. Ms. Thorner stated that the first Forum was well run and very positive. Forums like this will help promote business. The first Forum was mostly informational.

*Director's Report:

He is now marketing lots available on various websites. He is also posting advertisements for MACH ONE.

BDL Bradley Development League – The DOT Commissioner will be touring the four town area in October.

The Hobnob on Main Street went well.

There will be an OPEN FARMS Day scheduled for Sept. 27. This is well advertised in the AG Council bulletin.

The Arts Council recently sent out a flyer which detailed all courses being offered, and information about each instructor. Linda Montefusco stated that the sign up for the different classes is going very well. Some classes now are full. The main difficulty is finding space within the Town to hold the various classes. These spaces must afford good lighting.

The Town is seeking to obtain "Preserve America" status. This will help in the marketing efforts.

Babbs Beach: Mr. McMahon reported that the funding of the \$100,000 State grant has been expended. Funds are still needed to make the facility watertight. Members continue to work very hard on this project.

Lot 8, MACH ONE: Linda Montefusco recused herself at this time and left the meeting. Mr. McMahon stated that there is a deed restriction attached to Lot 8 in MACH ONE industrial park. This restriction allows the Town to buy back the property if it is not developed in two years. This Lot is the only one in the park to have this deed restriction. The two years have been extended for Lot 8. Due to the increased cost of construction and other issues, the marketing efforts have been exhausted. The deed restriction for the Town buy back option has proved to be a detriment to the selling of this LOT 8.

*Mr. Alfano moved that the Economic Development Commission recommend to the Board of Selectmen and the State DECD, that the Economic Development Commission waive this restriction for Lot 8, and the buy back restriction be terminated as it inhibits the owners of Lot 8 or potential buyers obtain financing. Mr. Cobb seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary to the EDC

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