

Minutes of the Suffield Economic Development Commission
May 20, 2010 – Town Hall 0 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Howard Orr, Roger Tracy, Susan Thorner, Gloria Smith, Caroline D'Otreppe Absent: E. McAnaney, B. Banak
Also present: EDC Director Patrick McMahan and Lynda Montefusco
Guests: John Smith, Richard Binns, John Donohue, Alternative Energy Committee

Chairman Howard Orr called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes- Ms. Thorner moved to approve the minutes of the April 15 meeting; Mr. Tracy seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Alternative Energy Discussion – John Smith, Richard Bins, and John Donohue, members of the Alternative Energy Committee (advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen) were present, and discussed the ways of creating alternative energy; methane gas from a landfill, solar, geothermal, windmills, and co-generation electric plants which could cycle heat to other uses such as a greenhouse. Zoning issues would have to be addressed; but one goal is to attract more businesses if the Town could provide energy at a lower cost ie. a green industrial park. The Commission discussed this issue and Mr. Orr noted that the Economic Development Commission would promote the concepts.

Heritage Tourism Discussion – Ms. D'Otreppe distributed copies of Ideas for Putting Suffield On the Map, Supporting its Heritage and Featuring Main Street. She commented on the many different events by which Town could promote Agri-tourism in Suffield (a town effort to celebrate a unique heritage and use local resources). Ms. Smith noted that adding crafts to the Farmers Market and Suffield on the Green could be an added attraction. The Commission discussed the ideas as documented and was supportive of the concepts. It was suggested that a Public Forum could be held to solicit additional information.

Route 75 PDIP Area – Mr. McMahan noted that Arcor Laser Services is having a groundbreaking ceremony and every commissioner was invited.

The Familiarization Tour is scheduled for next Wednesday; approximately 40 persons will be aboard. A luncheon will be held at the Country Club and golf offered.

Town Center –

The Inn at Suffield, 82 North Main Street, received approval from the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Ff Tyler Place – The Town is seeking a Request for Proposals for a Phase 2 Environmental Study, of the past landfill area and the waste oil tank areas. The owners have asked that the Town accept the road as is, as a Town Road. Test borings of the road will be done, but this request is up for review.

Unifying Plan – Mr. McMahon offered a suggested plan to address the Library and the Bridge Street properties.

1. A new Library would be constructed in the playing field next to the Bridge St. School.
2. Parks/Recreation would take over the entire Bridge Street School for Parks/Recreation programs.
3. The Kent Memorial Library would be used as an Arts Center.

These concepts are visionary and require perhaps years of planning. But it would be a beginning. It was noted that now is a good time for the Town to bond for such a project; the debt service is greatly reduced, and construction costs are low.

Airport Development Zone – BDL update - The legislation for the new zone was passed but there is new wording and it is different. Mr. McMahon will keep the Commission up to date on the approved wording and other information.

Senior Center – The new center will be open July 1. This facility has been funded by grants, and will cost the Town less than \$100,000.

Mr. McMahon reported that the Adaptive Reuse regulation was approved by the Zoning and Planning Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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