

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 27, 2009

Present:

Commissioners: Genevieve Salvatore, Chair,
Susan Ashelford, Tessa Marquis, Susan Patrick,
Bob Stanton, John DePalma
Advisors: Kathleen Alagno and Robert Gregory
Press: Frank Juliano, CT Post
Guests: Diane Wallberg, Jay Pinto, Paula Smith and
Ronna Hiltz, officers of the Milford Oyster Festival, Inc.

- I. Chair Salvatore called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. A roll call indicated the members present.
- II. The minutes of the meetings of April 8 and April 22, 2009 were accepted as presented.
- III. Economic Development Report

Mr. Gregory referred the Commission to his report noting the entertainment theme of the various developments highlighted by the proposal for 1034 Bridgeport Avenue by Show Motion, Inc. to renovate the existing building for theatrical set production. He also noted that Mountain Development held a Developers Showcase for the former Bic property.

Discussion was held on legislation pending in Hartford.

Discussion was held on the fate of the Milford Diner. A decision was made to invite the owner to a special meeting of the EDC.

The agenda was suspended at this time to move to the invited guests from the Milford Oyster Festival.

- IV. Milford Oyster Festival

Diane Wallberg, Jay Pinto, Paula Smith and Ronna Hiltz are all officers in the Annual Milford Oyster Festival, Inc. They said that one of the main goals of the MOF was to provide a venue for non-profit organizations to raise funds and raise awareness. As soon as the festival is over, they start planning for the next one. A fact sheet was presented to the Commission and is included as an addendum to these minutes.

If there is any money left over after bills are paid it is returned to the community in the form of a donation to a non-profit organization.

It is also a way to promote Milford and tourism. It has been a Milford tradition for 35 years.

Mr. DePalma said he had a property that could be used for parking if a non-profit group wanted to manage it. Chair Salvatore suggested that the EDC could locate other property owners that might be able to donate their properties. Mr. Stanton and Mr. DePalma agreed to work on it.

The MOF members related some of the trials and tribulations of running a festival. The MOF is an all volunteer run operation.

Mr. Pinto said that their focus is always to make it a better day as long as expenses are kept in line.

The “Liberty” will be the cruising ship this year. It will hold 49 passengers. Mr. DePalma will check with other boats that might give rides.

Due to the lateness of the hour the rest of the agenda was suspended and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Gregory