

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
7:00P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007  
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Nobile called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

**2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates:**

Present: Richard Nobile, Robert Jahn, Glen Johnson, Victory Harpley and Alternate Allan Spotts

Absent: Dave Beauchemin

Also Present: EDC Coordinator Craig Stevenson, First Selectman Paul Beaulieu, Selectman Al Waters and P&Z member Peter Keithan

A **motion** was made by Mr. Jahn and **seconded** by Mr. Harpley to seat alternate Allan Spotts *was unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

**3. Approval of Agenda:** A **motion** was made by Mr. Jahn and **seconded** by Mr. Spotts to approve the agenda *was unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

**4. Public Comments:** None.

**5. New Business:**

**a. Presentation of Tax Abatement Application of Brothers Autobody:** Tabled.

**b. Presentation and Q & A with Ann Faust-Grant Opportunities:** Ann Faust gave an over view of the services she would provide highlighting grant opportunities for the Town of Cromwell. They would include: a report based on the available grants that would be best suited to fund town projects covering a variety of town areas and departments and an action list. Ms. Faust would request town departments to develop a list of priorities for collating and her process would take about twenty hours to complete the grant list. This list would include grants that would be available over a year=s time and updates could be given. Ms. Faust would be available to write grants on a per grant basis for a fee.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Jahn and **seconded** by Mr. Spotts to authorize \$1,500.00 to be paid to Ann Faust for the development of a grant opportunities list for the Town of Cromwell and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

**6. Old Business/Economic Development Coordinator=s Report:**

**a. Traveler=s Championship Exhibition:** Mr. Stevenson has been in contact with the

tournament coordinators. The exhibit tent won't be used this year but EDC will be given an alternate area. The commission may need to have a special meeting prior to the tournament week to finalize details for the welcome area. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, during the tournament week.

**b. Cromwell Northern Tier Industrial Development:** The CEPA document has been reviewed by Town staff and some comments were made and some numbers for calculations need to be corrected. The next step is making the corrections and having it published, posted in public areas & online for forty-five days. If more than twenty residents request a hearing then a public hearing would be held. An RFQ has gone out for the engineering and architectural work.

**i. Coles Brook Commerce Park:** Mr. Stevenson is working with Town Planner Craig Minor to modify the zoning in this area from industrial to something more fitting for technology based companies. Guidelines for permitted uses and architectural design also need to be developed. Prime Pay will be celebrating their twentieth year in business on June 14<sup>th</sup> in the late afternoon.

**ii. STEAP Grants:** None.

**iii. Federal Grant:** None.

**iv. Development of Eastern Side of Shunpike Road:** None.

**v. Join Efforts with Town of Rocky Hill:** None.

**vi. Conversion of Transfer Station Driveway:** This is currently with the town Attorney Jack Bradley.

**c. CRUHA/Historic Downtown Committee:** Planters have been installed and businesses are interested in incorporating the use of white picket fences throughout downtown. Seven to eight facade improvement grant applications have been received. Some of the applications need more details. Mr. Spotts inquired about whether fences were acceptable in the downtown area. Mr. Stevenson stated that Delta Building currently has an application for a zoning amendment to allow fencing or screening in the downtown area.

**d. Riverfront Development: Town owned property:** An RFQ for Phase II will be advertised soon. Currently waiting for the new State Commissioner to sign a document before moving forward.

**e. 14 Alcap Ridge:** The first mortgage holder, Atlantic Trust, is now the owner of this property as of May 29, 2007. The environmental remediation plan is due back from the State. Alcoa & Safeway companies are involved in the clean-up. The site can be cleaned to an industrial level now because residents of Oak Road are now connected to the Town sewer system and are not relying on well water. The Town is in foreclosure action to collect back taxes on this

property.

**f. Planning & Zoning Issues:**

**i. Rezoning of Main Street:** None

**ii. Plan of Conservation and Development:** P&Z conditionally accepted a final draft and it will next go before the Board of Selectmen.

**g. Zoning Enforcement Report [Blight Committee]:** First Selectman Paul Beaulieu stated that the half-time zoning enforcement officer position has been kept in the budget and that the Blight Committee consists of the Building Official, Public Health Official and the Fire Marshall. The Board of Selectmen will discuss the possibility of the development of an Ad Hoc committee to develop a blight ordinance. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Nobile informed the First Selectman that the EDC has done research into this topic and would be willing to provide assistance.

**h.** (blank on agenda)

**i. Riverport Festival Status:** The group is still looking for volunteers. The festival will not block Main Street this year and will be spread throughout the parking lot behind the firehouse and police station. Vendors will be located on Community Field Road and will lead attendees into the amusement area. Parking will still be available for downtown business patrons. On Friday, September 14 at 4p.m the Cromwell Panthers will have a home football game. The festival will run Thursday and Friday, September 13 and 14 evenings, all day Saturday, September 15 with fireworks at night and Sunday, September 16 12n-6p.m. Donation containers will be placed at businesses around town. The next festival meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 7p.m. in the police department community room.

**j. MCC Business Expo:** None

**k. Safe Home Security Ribbon Cutting:** Safe Home has moved into their building but they are finishing interior construction. Mr. Stevenson will call them in June to check on a date for the grand opening.

**l. Hartford Publications Cromwell Feature:** 3,000 copies have been printed and copies are available in Town Hall.

**m. Other:** Mr. Spotts asked about the soccer >bubble= idea that two businessmen were interested in bringing to Cromwell. Mr. Stevenson has not heard from either of them.

**7. Communications-Fred=s P&Z monthly report, Minutes-Bd. Of Selectmen meetings 4/11, 5/9, P&Z meetings 4/17, 5/1, ZBA meeting 4/24:** Members were pleased with the information

included in the packet and would like it to continue.

**8. Chairman=s Comments/Commissioner=s Comments:** Mr. Jahn would like the Algonquin Pipe Line to clean up the area between the Arborio and Advanced Copy businesses to make in look cleaner and not so overgrown.

**9. Approval of Minutes: April 26, 2007:** A **motion** was made by Mr. Jahn and **seconded** by Mr. Harpley to approve the minutes of April 26, 2007 with the correction that Selectman Al Waters in attendance and was *unanimously approved*. Mr. Spotts abstained. *Motion passed*.

**10. Items for next meeting agenda:** Mr. Harpley would like to add a discussion about a grant opportunity that was mentioned in an email.

**11. Adjourn:** A **motion** was made by Mr. Jahn and **seconded** by Mr. Johnson to adjourn at 8:47p.m. and was *unanimously approved*. *Motion passed*.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Catherine Potter**