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**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

***Regular Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Wednesday December 16, 2009  
Room 224/225 Cromwell Town Hall***

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Richard Nobile, Robert Jahn, Merrie Buchsbaum, Victory Harpley, Richard Duffy and Alternate Joe Fazekas

**ABSENT:** Dave Beauchemin

**ALSO PRESENT:** EDC Coordinator Anthony Price and Selectmen Al Waters and Allan Spotts

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

**2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates:** A **motion** was made by Mr. Jahn and **seconded** by Mr. Duffy to seat Alternate Joe Fazekas and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

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

**4. Public Comments:** Myron Johnson, 16 Pleasant Street, learned of a company (Envirocycle, LLC) that was interested in locating in the northern tier that recycles brush and trees. Mr. Johnson displayed a drawing of a plan for 2 Wall Street that included a 5,600 sq. ft. building and parking spaces on parcel on Main Street. Mr. Johnson wanted to know where the EDC was when this project was proposed because the site represented jobs for Cromwell. Chairman Nobile stated that because there was no public meeting and the owner withdrew his offer of sale, it couldn't be pursued. It was also a matter of the residents of Cromwell not getting their money's worth on the purchase of the parcel. Delta Builders was not in the position to develop the property at the time and couldn't pursue it either. Mr. Johnson wanted to know why the EDC wasn't behind the purchase of the property and Chairman Nobile stated that the commission was originally supportive of the project but couldn't continue to support it if it meant that the town would be responsible for its development.

Peter Keithan, 24 Irongate Lane, feels that Mr. M. Johnson is overstepping his bounds on certain issues. Mr. Keithan agrees that the town needs to bring business to town.

## 5. New Business:

a. Economic Development Coordinator's report: Mr. Price gave his report. Mr. Price and Mr. Mazurek met with Nathan Grube with the Traveler's Championship and decided that the best idea would be developing a coupon book for local businesses. The book would be sold and the main gate and money generated would go to a local charity such as The First Tee. Mr. Grube offered to do the design of the booklet to make it look official. Participating businesses would be given tournament tickets for their participation. Ms. Buchsbaum agrees with the booklet idea and would like to know if it would be aimed at just restaurants and suggests that coupons have extended expiration dates for town residents to also take advantage of the discounts. Mr. Price stated that the booklet would extend an opportunity for local businesses, not just restaurants, to get exposure. Mr. Price will talk with businesses to find out what best meets their needs and having the tournament's support will hopefully encourage the business's participation. Mr. Price would like to put together an ad-hoc committee to put the booklet together. During the first meeting, the idea was presented but the details still need to be worked out. Mr. Duffy and Ms. Buchsbaum volunteered to be a part of the ad-hoc committee. Some of the cost of printing could be off-setted by the commission's budget.

Mr. Price and Mr. Mazurek met with representatives from the DECD about reporting on grants that the town is involved in. Grants are secure and there was no discussion of pulling and grant money.

Mr. Price continues to meet on 41 Alcap Ridge. Costs for renovation continue to increase. The project is moving forward. Chairman Nobile spoke with the town tax collector and discovered that whoever buys the property has to deal with Atlantic directly. The First Selectman would have to be involved with the project. Mr. Waters stated that this was mentioned at the Board of Selectman meeting and reported that the tax collector stated that she had no knowledge of any information on this issue. Mr. Waters suggests letting the Chairman know, privately, who the interested party is. Because of the Brownfield issue, the State has to be involved to sign off on the project and things are going on behind the scene. Mr. Price isn't sure why the tax collector is unaware of the progress of the project because she was present at a meeting in August.

Mr. Harpley asked about the rerouting of traffic for the tournament. Mr. Price stated that at the meeting it was just to make an effort to work together. Mr. Harpley would still like it discussed with the police chief and Mr. Price will ask Mr. Mazurek about it.

b. Review of By-laws: Mr. Jahn will work on wording for attendance requirements for the commission. Mr. Harpley commented that the Town's Charter contains language for the removal of members from boards. Chairman Nobile doesn't have a problem with the by-laws having no wording on attendance matters.

c. EDC Budget: Chairman Nobile met with the First Selectman and mentioned that the EDC has had no say in the budget or how the money was spent for the last few years. The Board of Finance has always been generous with the EDC. Mr. McGarry asked the First Selectman if the town would be interested in publishing the Cromwell magazine again this year and Chairman

Nobile will check to see if there is enough money if the budget. The cost is about five hundred dollars.

Chairman Nobile spoke with the First Selectman about the hiring of a full time coordinator, an RFP will be developed. Mr. Waters reported that it was brought up at the last two Board of Selectman meetings. Chairman Nobile is not sure what the time frame is on the RFP.

d. Façade Program:

i. 325 Main Street : Tabled Mr. Price stated that the application hasn't gone before the design review committee yet. Mr. Jahn stated that the applicant needs to provide a lot more information that is currently provided.

e. Annual Meeting & Election of Officers:

Mr. Jahn nominated Mr. Nobile for Chairman seconded by Mr. Fazekas. Mr. Jahn moved for nominations to be closed. Mr. Jahn moved that the clerk cast one ballot.

Mr. Harpley nominated Mr. Duffy for Vice Chairman seconded by Ms. Buchsbaum.

Mr. Jahn moved for nominations to be closed.

Mr. Harpley moved that the clerk cast one ballot.

Chairman Nobile stated that he is currently very discouraged and would like to see the commission and the Board of Selectman and the First Selectman work together. Mr. Waters stated that the commission has come a long way and is hopeful that things will continue to move forward over the next few years.

Chairman Nobile expressed disappointment the projects along the riverfront aren't supported by the town and that the town lost the State training facility that will now be located in Rocky Hill. Mr. Price stated that he is on an as needed basis and isn't always consulted. Chairman Nobile stated he would be very satisfied if Mr. Price was more actively involved in pursuing development projects. Mr. Price is given information from the First Selectman and/or Mr. Mazurek.

Mr. Harpley would like to see Chairman Nobile have control over the budget without the First Selectman going into it as has been done in the past.

f. Approval of Calendar of Meeting Dates: A motion was made by Ms. Buchsbaum and seconded by Mr. Jahn to move the meetings to the third Thursday of the month and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**6. Old Business:**

a. Northern Tier Industrial Development: None.

b. Main Street Revitalization Project: None.

c. Planning & Zoning Issues:

i. New Zoning Regulations: None.

- d. Zoning Enforcement: None.
- e. Stocking Triangle: Mr. Waters believes work has stopped for the winter. Material has been delivered but the equipment has been removed.
- f. GKN: Mr. Duffy met with Comcast and walked the facility. Tony Cacase spoke with Comcast and Mr. Duffy and the issue is money. The work couldn't start until the spring unless the town allows for a cold patch until spring. Mr. Duffy will speak with the First Selectman on the issue. Mr. Cacase feels the town should pay for the infrastructure. Mr Duffy visited the surrounding businesses were not interested in participating-they are able to get what they need from AT&T. Mr. Duffy feels this is a money issue with GKN and that they are looking for someone else to pay for the service installation. Chairman Nobile thanked Mr. Duffy for his efforts and Mr. Duffy will continue to follow up with the First Selectman. Mr. Harpley asked if would be cheaper for companies to switch to Comcast but when asked one business stated that they had just had a T-1 line pulled in a year ago and aren't interested in switching.

**7. Communications (see attached P&Z Report; Zoning Enforcement Report; P&Z Minutes)**

**8. Chairman's Comments/Commissioners' Comments:** Chairman Nobile hopes that the next couple of years are better than the last two and will continue to make sure things get done properly.  
Ms. Buchsbaum came up with ideas for stimulating economic development and Mr. Price will add it to next month's agenda.

**9. Approval of Minutes:** November 18, 2009 A motion was made by Mr. Jahn and seconded by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of November 18, 2009 and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

**10. Good & Welfare:** Mr. Waters asked Mr. Price to find out if the police training facility could possibly be located in Cromwell if it is not confirmed for Rocky Hill. Mr. Waters has previously stated that Rocky Hill works around their wetlands issues. Mr. Price will investigate the issue and send an email out if he finds any information.

**11. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Ms. Buchsbaum and seconded by Mr. Harpley to adjourn at 8:28p.m. and was unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Potter  
Clerk