

**SOUTHINGTON ENTERPRISE ZONE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE (SEED)
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 16, 2008**

The Seed Committee held a regular meeting on December 16, 2008, in the Town Council Chambers, Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, Connecticut, at 4:30 p.m.

Those present were: Chairman, D. Rickard; Town Manager, John Weichsel; Economic Development Coordinator, Louis Perillo; David Cayer; Elaine Bedard; Michael Ferreri; and Helen Archangelo.

Those absent were: Tony Sheffy, Terri Carmody, Eric Semmel, Chief Daly, Councilman Palmieri, and Lucielle Cusano.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rickard at 4:40 p.m.

2. Review and approve the minutes of the October 21, 2008 regular meeting.

Motion was made by E. Bedard, seconded by D. Cayer and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2008 regular meeting as presented.

3. Economic Development Coordinator's report on the following activities:

Mr. Perillo gave a status update on the following matters:

BioOne Diesel – Chairman Rickard stated the grand opening should be scheduled for late spring with the Governor and her staff. Full production should be started the first week of January. D. Cayer questioned if they are producing anything right now. D. Rickard stated they have fuel that is produced that has passed all the regulations. They are going through the final steps with the State and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). They can produce 660 gallons per batch with four batches a day.

Industrial Drive – We have 11 lots out of the 21 lots committed. There are seven lots sold and four lots pending.

STEAP Grant – The Industrial Drive STEAP Grant has been transferred to the Library parking lot project. Town Engineer, T. Tranquillo and Town Attorney/Deputy Town Manager, M. Sciota were able to negotiate the removal of the soil at no cost to the Town.

Greenway Commons – Greenway Commons is going for their special tax district on January 4, 2009. They hope to be approved by the end of February or the beginning of March. If approved, they will commence demolition of the buildings. D. Rickard questioned if Greenway Commons has mentioned how the economy is affecting their progress. L. Perillo stated he has spoke with Greenway Commons and they do not appear to be concerned about the economy pertaining to their project. M. Ferreri questioned how much retail Greenway Commons is going to be. L. Perillo stated originally they planned on about 24,000 square feet, but want to expand to about 30,000 square feet.

148 Center Street – The bid went to Landmark Real Estate for \$328,000. Sarah Mayo is going to be putting in a municipal lot. She will be coming in with a site plan and is hoping for a January meeting.

Beaton & Corbin – The Town joined the Regional Brownfield Partnership (RBP) at a cost of \$800 annually. Art Bogan is a member and has been successful at receiving assessment grant funding. The Beaton & Corbin site has an estimated \$2 million cleanup. A lot of the cleanup estimate pertains to the remediation and rehabilitation of the facility, which is no longer there. The Town felt it was worth joining for a year to take another look at the cost of the cleanup. We have a few interested parties in the site. M. Ferreri questioned what happened to the other gentleman who was interested in buying and redoing the site. L. Perillo stated the manner in which the site has to be remediated is an issue. There are many interested parties; however we are looking at remediation efforts that are in the best interest of the town. The Town is not willing to spend money on the site.

4. Other Business

a. Vote on Meeting Dates

Motion was made by E. Bedard, seconded by D. Cayer and unanimously carried to approve the calendar of dates for the upcoming SEED meetings.

b. Enterprise Zone Sign

There is an issue with the Enterprise Zone Sign on West Street. It is creating a sightline issue with Mr. Duksa's welding company. We have to move the sign. We are trying to find land next to the property. Land has not been found at this time. M. Ferreri questioned if we can raise the sign so the posts would be just in the way. L. Perillo stated the posts are what in the way now. Chairman Rickard questioned if a curb cut would make a difference. L. Perillo stated no because originally the sign was 20 feet off the road. An expense will be incurred for moving the sign and lighting the sign. We have delayed on lighting the sign because we know we have to move it. D. Cayer questioned who is going to take the sign down. L. Perillo stated he does not know and would like the committee to discuss it. D. Cayer stated he can get the sign down this week and store it at no cost to the town. L. Perillo thanked D. Cayer and requested a letter stating that he would take it down and store it at no cost. Chairman Rickard questioned if they want to leave the sign on West Street. He has property on Meriden Waterbury Road that he would be willing to let the Town put the sign there. L. Perillo stated we would have to do a site plan and do the proper procedure. L. Perillo stated he is going to keep the subject on the agenda and get a consensus on the location of the sign. E. Bedard stated if anyone on the committee comes up with an idea for the location we should email.

c. Plantsville Renaissance

Weston & Sampson won the bid for \$49,000. Town Engineer, T. Tranquillo is forming a Plantsville design committee.

d. Economic Summit

The Economic Summit took place on December 1, 2008. It was well received and is now being aired on TV. We are also looking to put the presentation on our webpage. E. Bedard stated it is a great idea to put on the webpage.

e. Promotional Flyers from Third Graders

L. Perillo did a book reading for the third graders and gave them an assignment to create a brochure for the town of companies they would like to see in the town.

The brochures were passed around. We are looking to put the brochures on the webpage. E. Bedard thought that was a good idea. The committee agreed.

5. Adjournment – Upon motion by Town Manager, J. Weichsel, seconded by E. Bedard, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

There was no Executive Session.