

# NORTH SMITHFIELD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007

PRESENT: Michael R. Dowling; Kenneth L. Peloquin; Alfred S. Puccetti; Bernice F. Salzberg; Eugene Simone

ALSO: Michael Phillips, North Smithfield Town Planner; Scott A. Gibbs, President of New England Economic Development Services, Inc. (NEEDS); Michelle M. Godin of NEEDS

ABSENT: None

## Call to Order

Peloquin called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Old Business

**Web Site** – Peloquin recalled that the Commission decided to develop its own web site to compliment the Town’s web site. Furthermore, Peloquin indicated that there are sufficient funds in the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund to pay for the cost to design the web site. There was discussion concerning the web site design by John Flaherty for the Branch River Revitalization Task Force. Several Commission members concurred that the web site is well designed, but questioned potential limitations. For example, Gibbs said that the Commission might desire features such as current weather conditions, driving directions, aerial photography, and mapping. Puccetti inquired about anticipated number of potential hits. Gibbs answered that the number of hits would grow with awareness that the web site exists, and mentioned that an advantage of using a web developer is that they track and report on the number of hits. Gibbs offered to provide a sample tracking report to the Commission. Furthermore, Gibbs mentioned that it is important to keep a “visitor” at the web site, as opposed to allowing the visitor to link to another site with no way back.

Puccetti made a motion to request that the Town Council reallocate \$10,000 from the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund for design and development of a web site, conditioned upon a determination being made by Gibbs that John Flaherty’s vehicle for developing a web site has limitations and would not allow the Commission to have certain desirable features; Simone seconded the motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

**Planned Corporate Zone** – Gibbs reported that a workshop with the Planning Board to discuss the draft Planned Corporate Zone may be scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2007. Phillips said he would confirm the date following the Planning Board meeting on June 7, 2007. Puccetti asked if the draft Planned Corporate Zone is compatible with the Comprehensive Plan. Both Phillips and Gibbs indicated that the Comprehensive Plan would need to be revised to achieve compatibility.

**Branch River District** – Peloquin recalled that the Town Council, at the request of the Branch River Revitalization Task Force, hired the consulting firm Horsley Witten Group to complete Phase I. Peloquin said that the task force was meeting with the consultant for the first time following the Commission meeting. According to Peloquin, the task force has a very aggressive time line and hopes to have its first public forum in July of this year.

# NORTH SMITHFIELD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

There was discussion about a Town Council meeting on June 11, 2007 at which it is anticipated that a 2-tier tax system or tax classification will be discussed. Gibbs mentioned that it is his understanding that the commercial valuations have decreased, and therefore commercial entities would be paying less in taxes. Following discussion, it was agreed that Peloquin should contact Bob Lowe to request the data that was prepared in support of the 2-tier tax position.

**Update: Commercial Developments** – Phillips stated that the Pound Hill Business Park and the Industrial Drive Commerce Park are on the agenda for the June 7, 2007 Planning Board meeting, along with the medical office building project on Great Road. With regard to Dowling Village, Phillips said that the Phase I occupant configuration has not been finalized. When asked about the status of Stop & Shop on Victory Highway, Phillips said the company is still committed to constructing the new store. Dowling inquired about the status of the hydro plant. Phillips responded that it is going through the federal permitting process.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Peloquin  
Chairman