

**Regional and Economic Development Committee
Conference Call
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022
12:00 PM**

Members Present via Microsoft Teams: Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, Randal Davis and Bob Patricelli

Staff Present via Microsoft Teams: Mike Freimuth, Tony Lazzaro and Kim Hart

Guests Present via Microsoft Teams: Eileen Buckheit, Town of East Hartford

- 1) **Silver Lane Redevelopment** – East Hartford Development Director Eileen Buckheit walked the Committee through redevelopment efforts along Silver Lane, noting that a corridor Redevelopment Plan was approved by the Town Council in early August. Ms. Buckheit noted that the 477-unit Jasko housing development on the former Showcase Cinemas site has received Inland Wetland Commission approval and is scheduled for Planning & Zoning consideration next week. A closing is tentatively scheduled for this fall.

Ms. Buckheit also reported that a public hearing was held on Silver Lane Plaza and the possibility of the Town taking possession of the site via eminent domain. Tenants of the Plaza expressed concerns about the status of the plaza and the future of their businesses. The Town is in the process of securing appraisals for the two parcels that make up the Plaza site and officials expect that another public hearing will be held this fall.

Committee members discussed the question of eminent domain and the Town's interest in hiring a relocation specialist to work with the tenant businesses. Members noted that the Town not only has a legal obligation to assist with relocation, but also with the more complicated question of business disruption.

Ms. Buckheit and Mr. Freimuth indicated that a new project related to the Church Corners building on Main Street will likely be introduced at the next Committee meeting.

The meeting was formally called to order at 12:28 and the minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

2) Project Updates

- a. Hilton/Doubletree –Mr. Freimuth reported that both the housing and hotel components of the project have closed. Renovation of the designated hotel rooms is expected to start in the next few weeks, with a new flag introduced in the spring of 2023. Construction of the new housing units may begin this fall.
- b. 235-7 Hamilton – Financing on this Parkville neighborhood project closed over the summer. CRDA is managing City funds for the project, which will include residential units on the upper floors and commercial space on the bottom floor. Environmental cleanup of the building interior and site are currently underway.
- c. Regional Agricultural Market – Mr. Freimuth noted that he will meet with State’s Agricultural Commissioner to discuss a redevelopment strategy for the market in anticipation of the next legislative session.

3) Regional Projects

- a. Newington – Mr. Freimuth indicated that the Town is contemplating a housing plan for the former National Welding site. CRDA oversaw the environmental cleanup of that site in 2013.
- b. Bloomfield / Windsor – Discussions are underway and additional projects in these two towns may be brought before the CRDA Board in the future.

The next meeting of the Regional & Economic Development Committee is scheduled for October 13, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.