

**BORDERLANDS
VILLAGE INNOVATION
PILOT TEAM MEETING**

**Killingly Public Library, Community Room
Westcott Road
April 23, 2009, 7:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Janice Thurlow, Ed Eramian, Virge Lorents, John Lambert, and Herbert Richardson

Staff Present: Linda Walden

Donna Bronwell, Elsie Bisset, Sue Westa and Kevin Essington were absent with notification.

Chair Janice Thurlow called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Upon a motion by Ed Eramian, seconded by Virge Lorents, the March 31 minutes were unanimously accepted as written. (Staff note: The March 31 minutes should have read that the February 26, 2009 were approved, not the March 31 minutes)

Due to the small group, it was agreed to discuss the work plan at next month's meeting.

Linda Walden reported that Sue Westa and Ariana McBride prepared and submitted the EPA assistance grant application and Elsie Bisset obtained the required letters of support for it. The application contains a request for financial and market studies of opportunities for the directed growth areas, fiscal impact to town services, protection of natural resources, and public participation. It may be months before a response is received.

There was some discussion of the regional event presentation to be given April 30 by Donna Bronwell, Sue Westa, Ed Eramian, and Virge Lorents at the Brooklyn Extension Center, 7PM for the Windham Country Conservation Consortium.

Ed Eramian summarized public water access efforts to date. There will be a first "First Paddle" of the Five Mile River on May 9th sponsored in part by the Killingly Conservation Commission (KCC). The Source to Sea relay event on the Quinebaug and the new river trail will be May 16. Brochures are available. Ed Eramian also suggested coordinated signs ID-ing recreational resources in town. Linda Walden said that concept had been suggested to Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor years ago for region-wide and Killingly held off to coordinate with the Corridor but since nothing has happened, it is time to do it at the town level. We'll ask Elsie Bisset what is the status of the Heritage Corridor signs. Linda Walden said that possibly KCC could be approached for \$ to begin the project with a couple of signs(?). Ed Eramian suggested an adopt-a-spot for signage program for businesses to sponsor the cost. Linda Walden also said that there is a sign grant for the new river trail –perhaps signs in the river trial area can be covered by that grant. She will find out the grant status from Eric Rumsey. Ed Eramian also commented on the Chase Reservoir kiosk and the list of what can't be done there – include positives.

Ed Eramian said that river access has been roughed out by the town at the footbridge on Water Street and Don from Danielson Adventure Sports is talking about kayak rentals on the Five Mile Pond this summer.

A side discussion occurred on vacant store fronts and the concept of avoidance of dark stores. Linda Walden will ask the Town attorney about the legality in CT of requiring dark store caveats as part of permit approvals.

The group reviewed the work maps from the fall public participation workshop. They had been used by the UCONN students for their project right after the workshop. Ed Eramian and Virge Lorents selected some of the maps to include in their presentation at the Extension Center on April 30.

Ed Eramian discussed the need of legislative political action re: septic/well design standards and the DEP vs. Department of Health jurisdiction. : Linda Walden said she had attended the first meeting of a NE Conn planners' group that is forming and she raised the same issue for the new group to consider as an action point. Virge Lorents also suggested the involvement of 1000 Friends. Linda Walden said another action point of the new planners' group is Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs). Ed Eramian discussed village infill and an upcoming workshop on May 15 by Julie Campoli on Visualizing Density. Janice Thurlow said residential blight is just as bad as business blight. Ed Eramian and Linda Walden mentioned the Mullin report received by members of Main Street Inc. this week on recommendations for downtown Danielson. Linda Walden said copies of the report will be distributed to the Pilot team as it can be beneficial to the Borderlands village center project as well. Perhaps Elsie Bisset can elaborate on the report at the next meeting. Ed Eramian mentioned a program that some towns use to have a tax increase grace period for building improvements. Linda Walden said that idea was broached to past councils in the 90's with no success but it could be time to try again. Virge Lorents suggested motivating the town council to reconsider the property ordinances and also for local banks for rehab revolving funds.

- **NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is **Thursday, May 28, 2009 at the library at 7 PM.** Staff note: Meeting topics for the April meeting that were not discussed and should carry over are: school update, the work plan, Urban Land Institute, and the Podcast tapes

Adjournment - At 8:35 PM upon a motion by Ed Eramian, seconded by Virge Lorents - unanimous

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Walden
Recording Clerk