

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
BARKHAMSTED HIGHWAY GARAGE  
COMMUNITY ROOM  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022  
7:00 PM**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Review and approve minutes from March 24, 2022 Meeting**
- 4. Discussion of action plan and work scope with Ted Shafer, Economic Development Consultant**
- 5. Update on Community Garden**
- 6. Discussion of 2022 initiatives to promote economic development, including use of ARPA funds**
  - a. Discussion of business promotion strategy (assist current businesses, attract workers, attract new businesses)**
  - b. Broadband services/task force for town residents and businesses**
  - c. Discover Litchfield Hills and Town website/tourist map**
  - d. Proposal for town-wide business “bingo”**

**Town of Barkhamsted**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**March 24, 2022**

**Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM**

**Attending members:** Bob Pulford, Brian Johnson, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Tim Sullivan, Linda Ganem. Also present were Don Stein, First Selectman and Dave Lewis.

**Review of minutes:** On a motion by Bob Pulford, seconded by Brian Johnson, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the February 17, 2022, meeting were approved. Linda Ganem and Tim Sullivan abstained.

**Discussion:** Dave Lewis provided an update on the status of the Community Garden at the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church. All beds are accounted for, including one person who has two beds, one of which will be for Scouts, and a couple of other people who requested two beds. No one who requested a bed was denied that opportunity. The irrigation tanks have been flushed and the soil in the beds is unfrozen, but they are high in phosphorus, so this year peat moss will be added to the beds instead of additional topsoil. The Riverton Fire department through Keith Archer is committed to keeping the tank full throughout the growing season.

Opening day is planned for April 23 and there will be need to be a work party prior to that, to clean up the area and clear some overgrown brush. There was also discussion of buying a shed to store tools, hoses, etc. The Church is o.k. with a shed being put in place and Dave suggested that an 8'X12' shed would be about right. In total, with a foundation, floor, ramp and roof, the cost would be about \$2500. The garden has \$471 in its account with the Town and is expecting income of \$610 this year. There was discussion of applying for a grant from the NWCT Community Foundation to cover the cost of a shed.

**Discussion:**

- Don Stein informed the members that the Town would be funding (through ARPA funds) a feasibility/cost study of installing fiber optics throughout the town and starting a town internet service, either individually or jointly with neighboring communities. This will cost \$23,000 and will be performed by Sertex, who is doing other towns in Northwest CT and also installs and manages internet services.
- The Town has agreed with Winsted to hire their new Economic Development Director for 5 hours per week. This will also be paid through ARPA funds.

The Commission members brainstormed ideas for Ted and he will come to the next EDC meeting.

- Get input from businesses as to
  - the kind of support they need,
  - are there issues with the cost of doing business or taxes in town,
  - how can we promote their businesses and/or
  - what kind of publicity would be helpful
- Help with the planned business “meet and greet” in June and the “bingo” that was discussed at the last meeting. Consider doing the bingo jointly with Winsted to improve the number of people participating
- Update the contact list, improve communications with businesses, including home businesses
- Connect business owners with each other
- Work on improving participation in Discover Litchfield Hills, both for greater participation and publicizing events

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein