

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting
Barkhamsted Town Hall
July 13, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Linda Ganem, Todd Winkler and Don Stein. Meaghan Cook, First Selectman, and Rich Madara, who will be appointed to the EDC, were also in attendance.

Motion: On a motion by Linda Ganem, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, the minutes of the meeting of June 1, 2026, were approved unanimously.

New Members: Rich Madara was at the meeting as an observer and is expected to be appointed to the EDC by the Board of Selectmen at their July 14 meeting.

Farmers Market: Shannon Chatfield was not at the meeting, so there was no update on the Farmers Market. However, it appears that there are typically 4 or 5 vendors at the market each week and that it is generally successful.

Connecticut Main Street Workshop: Meaghan has scheduled a workshop for July 27 at 2:00PM at the Senior and Community Center. The merchants in Riverton and the residents have been invited to attend this workshop, which is titled Building Interest in Main Street. The members of the EDC were requested to attend, and It is open to any resident or business in Town who is interested in the topic.

Business Meet-and-Greet/List of Businesses: there will be a note included in the Personal Property Declaration asking businesses to check a box if they want to be included in or want to update their business description on the town website. It was also suggested that we survey businesses to see their interest in a business “meet and greet” or who they would like as guest speakers.

There was also discussion of “Barkhamsted Chatter for Businesses”, which could be a business page on the website or Facebook and would be interactive, open to every business and could include a rotating business showcase.

- Don will reach out to Regional 7, Wolcott Tech and the Entrepreneurial Center at the Community Center to see if we can help in designing something like this and establishing guidelines.
- Tim will reach out to the Winsted EDC (Dennis Dressel) to determine if they are interested in collaborating or meeting as a group.
- Rich will design a survey for the businesses on this subject.

Barkhamsted Housing Trust: The BHT has received bids for the construction of the units and has confirmed that the low bidder will be selected in anticipation of completing the request to the CT Department of Housing and the First Bank of Boston for funding. The site work is continuing and

will be completed sometime this summer and the construction will follow, but the date is likely to be in the first quarter2027 depending on the CT DOH.

Riverton Fairgrounds events: the next scheduled event will be the schools' River Day in

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein, Chair

The next meeting of the EDC will be a special meeting on August 10.