

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting
Barkhamsted Town Hall
September 8, 2026

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Holly P. Krouse
BARKHAMSTED TOWN CLERK

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Todd Winkler, Amanda North, David North, Shannon Chatfield and Don Stein. Linda Gosselin was also in attendance.

Motion: On a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Amanda North, the minutes of the special meeting of August 8, 2026, were approved unanimously.

New Members: Linda Gosselin volunteered to be a new member, and her name will be forwarded to the First Selectman for consideration by the Board of Selectmen

Joint Meeting with Winsted EDC: Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that Dennis Dressel, a member of the Winsted EDC, had suggested to his EDC that we were interested in doing a joint meeting with them. They also seemed interested and some of the ideas which were discussed included creating a tourist route from the American Mural Project to Riverton and maybe Pleasant Valley. This could include the Shops in Riverton, the Old Riverton Inn, biking, hiking, fishing, etc. Another suggestion made by Amanda North was expansion of the "skeleton crawl" started in New Hartford last year and which could be extended down Route 44 through Barkhamsted and ending in Winsted. Businesses would display the skeletons, and an interactive map could be created through a QR code. Other possibilities are a joint job fair or a foliage tour. If the Winsted EDC agrees, we will cancel our meeting on October 5 and meet with Winsted on October 6.

Farmers Market: Shannon Chatfield said that the Market's last weekend was the Saturday before Labor Day and that the market was reasonably successful. There was interest expressed by some of the members that there be a winter market which could include both food and crafts. Shannon also mentioned that there was a farm that had alpacas that could be brought down and then folks could have their holiday pictures taken with the animals. It was agreed that we should try to have markets before Thanksgiving and Christmas using the Town Garage Community Room. One important outcome is that the table where there was an individual giving out Narcan and explaining how to use was a success and he reported that at least 3 or 4 people had used it successfully and helped people to get into rehab.

Connecticut Main Street Workshop: There has been no follow-up, and a second session has not been scheduled yet. More to follow when feedback has been given.

Business Meet-and-Greet/List of Businesses: Three new home businesses indicated to the Assessor that they would like to be contacted. Shannon Chatfield indicated that she would reach out to them. Shannon also reported that the "Barkhamsted Main Street" Facebook page is getting some views, but it is still in the early phases of people following the page.

Barkhamsted Housing Trust: The BHT has received bids for the construction of the units and has confirmed that the low bidder will be selected. The Trust has completed their applications to the CT Department of Housing and the First Bank of Boston for funding. The site work is continuing and is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Riverton Fairgrounds events: the next scheduled event will be the schools' River Day on September 25, which includes neighboring schools in addition to Barkhamsted. It is for grades K-6 with different programs for the different ages. The Riverton Fair this year is on October 9, 10, and 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein, Chair