

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
April 26, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. The recording of the meeting is listed below.

Attendees: Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Bob Pulford, Todd Winkler, Linda Ganem, Kathy Williams and Mark Mahoney attended via Zoom , Also in attendance was Don Stein, First Selectman.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Motion: On a motion by Bob Pulford, seconded by Todd Winkler, the minutes of the March 30, 2023, Special Meeting were approved on a unanimous vote.

Discussion: Since Ted Shafer was unable to attend, there was no report from him regarding his activities. Don Stein also informed the members that the Board of Finance has requested that funding for this position come from the ARPA funds. Don Stein will bring this to the committee on ARPA expenditures and bring it through that approval process. It was suggested that two of Ted's tasks should be to work with the owner of Mallory Brook Plaza to fill empty spaces and to run the business bingo event in town. The bingo event would be scheduled for the Fall.

DISCUSSION: Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that April 22 was the opening day of the community garden and that there was a work party that day to ready the gardens for the growing season. All beds have been reserved and there are a couple of folks who reserved multiple beds. Seven have been paid for to-date. Dave Lewis has been communicating with the gardeners. Further discussion is required regarding the shed and its cost and to pursue the ideas of decorating the water tank with murals or other art.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein presented the status of the installation in Town of fiber optic cable by Frontier. They are making good progress, but it appears that there will be some number of houses that they will not cover unless there is additional funding provided by the Town. Don Stein is working to minimize that shortfall, and is putting pressure on Frontier not to lose momentum. It appears that all of the above-ground wiring is in place and that they are doing the splices of the fiber to the equipment. However, they have not started on the underground areas. There is a coordination meeting set up for May 2 to find out more about their real status and plans.

DISCUSSION: The Blacksmith Guild is still interested in possibly using the Fairgrounds for their annual meeting. Tim Deschenes –Desmond will work with the Board of the Union Agricultural Society if the Guild decides that this is the location they want to use. The Fair association is also committed to doing more events at the Fairgrounds, which would be a big help to the Community and particularly Riverton.

DISCUSSION: There was also planning and discussion for the Nature Day festival (Earth Day) scheduled for April 30. The members of the Commission (along with FALPS members) will volunteer to help as needed with the set-up, cooking, providing tables and chairs, building birdhouses, etc. This is the 8th annual festival and has been very successful despite most years having bad weather.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 on a motion by Bob Pulford and seconded by Mark Mahoney.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

Recording of Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Dgh2s9m4gZk8EI8CSIXv-dOQswSXctuh53td-Uq3AcZiSNLF_n-xkSPBpma7_eEw.qQip3a2OKMcoo-B0?startTime=1682549456000