

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
July 10, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.

Attendees: Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Kathy Williams, Linda Ganem and Mark Mahoney. Also in attendance was Don Stein, First Selectman, and Ted Shafer, Economic Development Consultant. No members of the public were in attendance.

Motion: On a motion by Kathy Williams, seconded by Mark Mahoney, the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Special Meeting were approved on a unanimous vote.

Discussion: Ted Shafer reviewed the attached set of goals and objectives for his position for the coming fiscal year.

A few of the highlights of this discussion include:

- Ted will try to schedule ribbon cutting events at the T-Mobile store and the Village Gift Shop, Leslie DiMartino's new store next to the Riverton General Store
- Don to send out a copy of the town tax abatement policy to the EDC members
- The Town needs to establish a business support page on the town website highlighting items such as:
 - NWCC Entrepreneurial Center
 - SCORE
 - SBA
 - Youth sports/TiTrikes fundraiser event in August
- Consider an e-vehicle show
- Continue communicating with local entities who might be interested in expanding or relocating (retail, office, professional)
- Ted will attend the CEDS Charrette being held by the NWCT EDC as part of developing its 5-year strategy to receive funds from the Federal EDA
- High priority actions are the business bingo scheduled for this fall and the business networking event, which will also count as points for Sustainable CT.
 - Ted to present a theme for the Business Meet and Greet at the next meeting and he has been discussing the possibility of holding it at Sterling Engineering with their General Manager
 - He will also work with the Commission and First Selectmen to see if we should target a specific sector for this event.
- Ted will support Kathy Williams who is pulling together the welcome bags for new residents

Discussion: The Commission members discussed the business promotion and business retention strategies, Discover Litchfield Hills, tourist maps, all of which will be covered through Ted Shafer and his goals and objectives. A near term objective is for Ted to look at the CT Visit website and to see how the Town can take advantage of this resource.

Discussion: They discussed the status of the Frontier installation of fiber optic internet, which has changed significantly from the original promises made by Frontier last December to do the entire town in the 1st quarter of 2023 or a bit into the 2nd quarter. At this stage, they have done most of the streets with aboveground utilities and starting to hook residents up to their service on those streets. The underground neighborhoods and homes will probably be delayed into 2024, and it is unclear how many of the underground utility streets will be covered or when.

Discussion: Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that the Blacksmith Guild was still potentially interested in the use of the Riverton Fairgrounds for their annual meeting, but that still was not for sure. Tim also reported that the community garden was full, with only a few beds being owned by folks who were using more than one bed. He will work with Erica Dyndiuk and Bob Pulford to look at the costs for a shed and whether there are sufficient funds to cover this

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

The next meeting of the EDC will be a Special Meeting to be held on August 21.

BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS									
Goal & Metric					EDC Meet				
Local Business Vistation - Retention					6/12/2023				
Goal: 75 annual visits					7/10/2023				
					Old Riverton Inn				
					Several Visited				
					Riverton General Store				
					Verizon				
					Orchard Hill Bakery				
					Subway				
					Riverton Self Storage				
					Sterling Enginnering				
					Village Gift Shop				
					Aerie Mountain				
					Pleasant Valley General Store				
					Tractor Supply				
					Mallory Brook Plaza Tenants				
					Winsted Feed & Supply				
					Lomabard Ford				
					Log House Restaurant				
					Goulet Printing				
Info Outeach to Businesses					Create Funding Resource Sheet				
3 distributions annually					Create Funding Resource Sheet				
					- Northwest Bank				
					Womens's Business Dev Council				
					Torrington Savings				
					SCORE				
Business Recruitment					Retail - Little Oak Café - Canton				
Communicate with 75 entities annually					Farmers Markets:				
					Entrepreneurs - Beka Wright				
					Kent CT: We Bakery				
					Developers - CORE Plainville CT				
					Windsor CT:				
					Brokers - Northwest Gueniat				
					- Frecia Art				
					Artisans-Embroidery Stacy Stap				
					- The Renewed Pallet				
					Consultants - Energy Source				
					- Tesla Owners of CT				
					Housing				
					- Ebikes				
					- Geer Village				
					- Paula Pierce Hosting CT				
					Business - Hartford Baking Co				
					- Capitol Clean Cities of CT				
					Outlet for Arts - Recording Brist				
					Collinsville:				
					Medical - Avon Family Dentistry				
					Café Real - Bristol				
					Brits Brands -				
Coordinate Business Networking Event					Discussed with First Selectmen				
Goal: 2 Events per year					Discussed with First Selectman				
Business Networking at Riverton Inn					Discussed with EDC				
EV Show with Winchester/Winsted					Discussed with Sustainable CT Group				
Attend Local Events					Touch a Truck				
75% of EDC Meetings					4th of July parade cancelled.				
4 Community/Regional Events									
Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies									
Workforce Development					Planning Regional Job Fair				
Attend 3 job fairs and /or					Oct Winsted Regional Job Fair				
workshops					at Gilbert School. Planning ongoing				
					Invite local employers and candidates				

Maintain positive working relationships	First Selectmen		Attended events and	
Attend 30 meetings / workshops/	NHCOG		meetings of those listed prior	
events annually	CCM		CT Visit - State of CT Tourism	
	COST		CEDS Charrette #1 - 7/12, 2pm -6pm	
	NW CT Chamber		EdAdvance at 355 Goshen Road, Litchfield	
	NW CT EDC Corp - CEDS		RSVP ehultquist@northwesthillscog.org	
	Northwest Community College			
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Business Promotion Event	Planning Business Bingo		Planning Business Bingo	
1 event annually	Welcome Bags		Welcome Bags	
Sustainable CT Committee	Met with organizing group		Met with organizing group	
Goal : bronze level certification			Business Networking Event w/ EDC	
			EV Show with Winchster	
Seek economic development	Sustainable CT matching fund		Sustainable CT matching fund	
grants & funding				
Assist First Selectmen throughout year				
on applications				
Economic Development content	Discover Litchfield Hills		CT Visit - CT Tourism	
posting on Town Web Site,				
social media and				
Other	CEDS planning kick off		Regional Mfg Networking	
	Winsted AMP		Oct date TBD	
	June 20th		Paul Lavie Speaking	
	NW CT Chamber		Little Red Barn	