

**Town of Barkhamsted**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Town Hall**  
**August 21, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.

**Attendees:** Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Kathy Williams and Bob Pulford. Linda Ganem joined the meeting at 7:35. Also in attendance was Don Stein, First Selectman, and Ted Shafer, Economic Development Consultant. No members of the public were in attendance.

**Motion:** Due to the lack of a quorum, the approval of the minutes for the July 10, 2023 meeting was tabled.

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

A few of the highlights of this discussion include:

- The Business Meet and Greet is scheduled to be held at Sterling Engineering on November 22.
- The Business Bingo will be held in the October timeframe and needs a team to solicit participation and prizes
- Kathy Williams has been gathering bags and is working with Ted on the material to go in to the bags. There are currently 21 new households since January 1 and Kathy had to buy 20 additional bags from the Women's Club and they only charged her \$2.50 per bag.
- Ted is working with Leslie DiMartino to schedule a ribbon cutting at her gift shop in Riverton.
- He is also working to get us more tied in to the CTVisit tourism website and is working with town residents to help us achieve Bronze in Sustainable CT
- He and Don Stein are working with the NHCOC and other Towns to create a new CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) for the region, which qualifies the region to get Federal funds

**Discussion:** The Commission members discussed the business promotion and business retention strategies, Discover Litchfield Hills, tourist maps, all of which are being covered through Ted Shafer and his goals and objectives.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023 or a bit into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. At this stage, they have made their fiber optic service available on 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. In all likelihood, the streets without a conduit will not be done until a later time.

**Discussion:** Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that the Blacksmith Guild was currently not interested in the use of the Riverton Fairgrounds for their annual meeting. They were not yet ready to expand to that degree. Tim also reported that the community garden was working well, 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. It is likely that the cost difference for a small shed that is pre-fabricated or the cost of the material to have volunteers build it will be minimal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein  
First Selectman

***The next meeting of the EDC will be the Regular Meeting to be held on September 11.***

BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS			BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS		
Goal & Metric	EDC Meeting	EDC Meeting	EDC Meeting		
Local Business Vistation - Retention	6/12/2023	7/10/2023	8/21/2023		
Goal: 75 annual visits	Old Riverton Inn	Brass Horse	Pleasant Valley Fence		
	Riverton General Store	Verizon	Glass Blowing		
	Orchard Hill Bakery	Subway	Riverton General Store		
	Riverton Self Storage	Sterling Enginnering	Village Gift Shoppe		
	Village Gift Shop	Aerie Mountain	The Natural Wave		
	Pleasant Valley General Store	Tractor Supply	Orchard Hill Bakery		
	Mallory Brook Plaza Tenants	Winsted Feed & Supply	Ti -Trikes		
	Lomabard Ford		Loghouse Restaurant		
	Log House Restaurant		Goulet Printery		
	Goulet Printing		Ken's Wine & Spirit		
Business Recruitment	Retail - Little Oak Café - Canton	Farmers Markets:	JT's Wood Turnings		
Communicate with 75 entities annually	Entrepreneurs - Beka Wright	Kent CT: We Bakery	Lamothe Maple Sugar		
	Developers - CORE Plainville CT	Windsor CT:	Britsbrand		
	Brokers - Northwest Gueniat	- Frecia Art	Hayward Farm		
	Artisans-Embroidery Stacy Staple	- The Renewed Pallet	Bristol's Farm Market		
	Consultants - Energy Source	- Tesla Owners of CT	Vintage Metal & Clay		
	Housing	- Ebikes	Casi Paraiso Organics		
	- Geer Village	- Paula Pierce Hosting CT	The Chill Factory		
	Business - Hartford Baking Co	- Capitol Clean Cities of CT	Canton Clayworks		
	Outlet for Arts - Recording Bristo	Collinsville:	Wild Carrot Farm		
	Medical - Avon Family Dentistry	Café Real - Bristol	Northstar Studio		
		Brits Brands -	Mapleview Farm		
Coordinate Business Networking Event					
Goal: 2 Events per year					
11/2 Business Networking at Sterling	Discussed First Selectmen/EDC	Discussed with First Selectman/EDC	Planning w First Selectman/EDC		
EV Show with Winchester/Winsted tbd	Sustainable CT Group	Discussed with Sustainable CT Group	Sustainable CT Group		
Attend Local Events	Touch a Truck	4th of July parade cancelled.			
75% of EDC Meetings	Attended	Attended	Attended		
4 Community/Regional Events		Job Fair & Mfg Summitt Planned	Job Fair & Mfg Summitt Planned		
Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies		Gift shop ceremony discussed	Gift Shop ceremony discussed		
Workforce Development	Planning Regional Job Fair &	Oct Winsted Regional Job Fair	Oct 11th Job Fair - Winsted		
Attend 3 job fairs and /or	Mfg Summitt	at Gilbert School. Planning ongoing	Oct 24th Mfg Summitt - Winsted		
workshops		Invite local employers and candidates	Inviting Barkhamsted Business		
Maintain posive working relationships	First Selectmen	Attended events and	Attended events and		
Attend 30 meetings / workshops/	NHCOG	meetings of those listed prior	meetings of those listed prior		
events annually	CCM	CT Visit - State of CT Tourism	CT Visit - State of CT Tourism		
	COST	CEDS Charrette #1 - 7/12, 2pm -6pm	Next CEDS Activity		
	NW CT Chamber	EdAdvance at 355 Goshen Road, Litchfield			
	NW CT EDC Corp - CEDS	RSVP ehultquist@northwesthillscog.org			
	Northwest Community College				
Business Promotion Event	Planning Business Bingo	Planning Business Bingo	Organizing Business Bingo		
1 event annually	Welocme Bags	Welcome Bags	Welcome Bags		
Sustainable CT Committee	Met with organizing group	Met with organizing group	Sustainable CT Group actions		
Goal : bronze level certification		Business Networking Event w/ EDC	to date sbmitted for judging		
		EV Show with Wincehster	8/15/2023		
Seek economic development	Sustainable CT matching fund	Sustainable CT matching fund	STEAP		
grants & funding					
Assist First Selectmen throughout year					
on applications					
Economic Development content	Discover Litchfield Hills	CT Visit - CT Toursim	Sustainable CT actions		
posting on Town Web Site,					
social media and					
Info Outreach For Businesses	Create Funding Resource Sheet	SCORE	Womens's Business Dev Council		
Goal: 3 distributions annually	Northwest Community Bank	Womens's Business Dev Council	Create Funding Resource Sheet		
	Torrington Savings	Create Funding Resource Sheet	NCCC Entrepreneurial Center		
Other	CEDS planning kick off	Regional Mfg Networking			
	Winsted AMP	Oct date TBD			
	June 20th	Paul Lavioe Speaking			
	NW CT Chamber	Little Red Barn			