

**Town of Barkhamsted**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Town Hall**  
**October 2, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

**Attendees:** Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Bob Pulford, Todd Winkler and Mark Mahoney (by phone). Also in attendance were Don Stein, First Selectman, and Ted Shafer, Economic Development Consultant. No members of the public were in attendance.

**Motion:** On a motion by Bob Pulford, seconded by Todd Winkler, the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 11, 2023 were approved unanimously.

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

- The ribbon-cutting at the Village Gift Shop in Riverton was very well-attended and a success for the business. It will likely be published in the local papers and hopefully will help the other businesses in the Village.
- There will be a job fair for the region that will be held from 3:00-6:00 at the Gilbert School auditorium in Winsted. It will include Barkhamsted businesses.
- The business meet-and-greet will be held at Sterling Engineering on November 2 at 5:00PM. The folks at Sterling will conduct a tour of the facility and the director of the Entrepreneurial Center at Northwestern Community, John Fiorello, will be the guest speaker. There will also be a “happy hour” at the event to allow the business folks to socialize and network.
- Ted has continued to visit businesses in town to see what they need and has also talked to businesses in other towns to determine if there is any chance of them relocating or expanding to Mallory Brook Plaza.
- Don Stein reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update was underway to continue to receive Federal funds for the region. The big change is that the Council of Governments will be designated as the region’s Economic Development District rather than the NWCT Economic Development Corporation, which will now become a subcommittee of the Council of Governments. The CEDS allows the region to receive Federal grants for initiatives and is due to be completed in the first quarter of next year.
- Ted presented the “Business Bingo” card, which will include 24 businesses to be visited. Ted will start to distribute the cards with the businesses on the front and the rules on the back this week. The game will go until October 26 and will involve visiting the businesses and having them stamp or sign their square. No purchase is required, and like bingo, there are different prizes for cards that have 2 rows completed or those which have every square filled in. The prizes range from \$10 for 20 cards that have 2 rows completed up to a grand prize of \$100 for the winner drawn from those who have all the rows completed. The businesses that Ted has visited seem enthusiastic about this game as a way to get more folks into their stores.
  - On a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Bob Pulford, the EDC authorized the use of \$575 of EDC funds to provide funds for the prizes for those folks who turn in completed cards.

**Discussion:** The welcome bags are available, but have not been heavily requested. Kathy Williams said she would look at other ways of making people aware of the bags and how to better distribute them. This will be discussed further at the next meeting of the EDC

**Discussion:** Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that Dave Lewis will be stepping down from the Community Garden leadership role. He will still be available to consult, but felt that with his initiative to restore the meadow in Peoples State Forest he was over-committed. Joan Noblet and Linda Ciborowski, both master gardeners and users of the community garden, will take over and work on this project in concert.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein  
First Selectman

BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS				BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS									
Goal & Metric				EDC Meeting		EDC Meeting		EDC Meeting		EDC Meeting		EDC Meeting	
				6/12/2023		7/10/2023		8/21/2023		9/11/2023		10/2/2023	
Local Business Vistation - Retention													
Goal: 75 annual visits				Old Riverton Inn		Brass Horse		Pleasant Valley Fence		Sterling Enginr		Village Gift Shoppe	
				Riverton General Store		Verizon		Glass Blowing		Riverton Storag		Subway	
				Orchard Hill Bakery		Subway		Riverton General Store		Mallory Brook		Pleasant Valley Hair	
				Riverton Self Storage		Sterling Engineering		Village Gift Shoppe		Winsted Feed		TR Woodcrafts	
				Village Gift Shop		Aerie Mountain		The Natural Wave				Ollie's BargainOutlet	
				Pleasant Valley General Store		Tractor Supply		Orchard Hill Bakery				Riverton General Str	
				Mallory Brook Plaza Tenants		Winsted Feed & Supply		Ti - Trikes				T-Mobile	
				Lomabard Ford				Loghose Restaurant				Old Riverton Inn	
				Log House Restaurant				Goulet Printery				Pleasant Valley Fence	
				Goulet Printing				Ken's Wine & Spirit				Aerie Mountain	
Business Recruitment				Retail - Little Oak Café - Canton		Farmers Markets:		JT's Wood Turnings		Harw Graphics		Lemon Grass	
Communicate with 75 entities annually				Entrepreneurs - Beka Wright		Kent CT: We Bakery		Lamothe Maple Sugar		Muf Tack & Lth		Mama Pho	
				Developers - CORE Plainville CT		Windsor CT:		Britsbrand		Bright Desgn		Salt 2.0	
				Brokers - Northwest Gueniat		- Precia Art		Hayward Farm		Max Restaurnt		Market Place	
				Artisans-Embroidery Stacy Stap		- The Renewed Pallet		Bristol's Farm Market		Geppetto Rest		E&D Pizza	
				Consultants - Energy Source		- Tesla Owners of CT		Vintage Metal & Clay		T Montana Grl		Julian Haines Coffee	
				Housing		- Ebikes		Casi Paraiso Organics		Red Rocks Rest		Lemonlime Tangerin	
				- Geer Village		- Paula Pierce Hosting CT		The Chill Factory				Arkoun Woodwork	
				Business - Hartford Baking Co		- Capitol Clean Cities of CT		Canton Clayworks				Luminari Production	
				Outlet for Arts - Recording Brist		Collinsville:		Wild Carrot Farm				D'Angelo Building Co	
				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		Don/Judy/Eric/Me -Met		Catering needed	
EV Show with Winchester/Winsted tbd				Sustainable CT Group		Discussed with Sustainable CT Group		Sustainable CT Group		TBD		TBD	
Attend Local Events				Touch a Truck		4th of July parade cancelled.						Riverton Fair Soon	
75% of EDC Meetings				Attended Meeting		Attended Meeting		Attended Meeting		Attended Meeting		Attended EDC Mtg	
4 Community/Regional Events						Job Fair & Mfg Summitt Planned		Job Fair & Mfg Summitt Planne		2 Chamber Networking		NCCC 10/20 Mfg Evt	
Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies						Gift shop ceremony discussed		Gift Shop ceremony discussed		Village Gift Shoppe TBD		Village Gift was 9-30	
Workforce Development				Planning Regional Job Fair &		Oct Winsted Regional Job Fair		Oct 11th Job Fair - Winsted		Oct 11 Job Fair - Winsted		10/11 Job Fair	
Attend 3 job fairs and /or				Mfg Summitt		at Gilbert School. Planning ongoing		Oct 24th Mfg Summitt - Winsted		Mfg Summitt TBD at NCCC...			
workshops						Invite local employers and candidates		Inviting Barkhamsted Business		Invite Barkhamsted Mfg			
Maintain positive working relationships				First Selectman		Attended events and		Attended events and		First Selectman		NW Chamber Board	
Attend 30 meetings / workshops/				NHCOG		meetings of those listed prior		meetings of those listed prior		NW CT Chamber		CCM Conference Nov	
events annually				CCM		CT Visit - State of CT Tourism		CT Visit - State of CT Tourism		NW CT Community Collg		Five Points Ceremony	
				COST		CEDS Charrette #1 - 7/12, 2pm -6pm		Next CEDS Activity		No other meetings in Aug			
				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		Met with Don and Deb to		Bingo begins 10/3	
1 event annually				Welocme Bags		Welcome Bags		Welcome Bags		organize Oct Bingo		Welcome Bags	
Sustainable CT Committee				Met with organizing group		Met with organizing group		Sustainable CT Group actions		Waiting for SCT judging		SCT judges 160 point	
Goal : bronze level certification						Business Networking Event w/ EDC		to date sbmitted for judging		feedback			
						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				Tourism Mtg 11/15	
posting on Town Web Site,												Anthony speaking	
social media and													
Info Outreach For Businesses				Create Funding Resource Sheet		SCORE		Womens's Business Dev Council		Nov 2nd Sterling event		Northwest Bank	
Goal: 3 distributions annually				Northwest Community Bank		Womens's Business Dev Council		Create Funding Resource Sheet		will have John Fiorello			
				Torrington Savings		Create Funding Resource Sheet		NCCC Entrepreneurial Center		from community college			
Other				CEDS planning kick off		Regional Mfg Networking				Paul Lavoie speaking at		Sustainable CT AMP	
				Winsted AMP		Oct date TBD				Nov Little Red Barn even		Chamber Events	
				June 20th		Paul Lavioe Speaking				exact date TBD			
				NW CT Chamber		Little Red Barn							