

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM

Attending members: Bob Pulford, Kathy Williams, Brian Johnson and Tim Deschenes-Desmond. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman. Brian Johnson was seated for the meeting as a member, rather than as an alternate.

No members of the public attended the meeting

Review of minutes: On a motion by Kathy Williams, seconded by Brian Johnson, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Long Term Recovery Team** – No update was available on the LTRT activities.
- **Tourist Map** – No update was available on the Tourist Map.
- **Welcome Kits** – No update was available on the Welcome Kits
- **Other Initiatives** – Don Stein reported that the sewer agreement between Winsted and Barkhamsted that will enable the sewers to be brought to Mallory Brook Plaza, Lombard Ford and the Mallory Brook Farm (Barkhamsted Housing Trust) is largely complete and is likely to be signed this month. The Riverton Inn is open for outdoor and indoor dining and appears to be doing very well. The food gets excellent reviews and hopefully the business will thrive. Town-wide events, like the Riverton Fair, have all been canceled due to the pandemic, but hopefully we can back to a semblance of normalcy in the future.

The EDC discussed the new Town website which will provide a link to the Discover Litchfield Hills website. Kathy and Tim will work with Debbie Brydon to go through the spreadsheet of businesses in town to highlight those businesses that would benefit from a spot on the DLH site. They will also set it up to separate the types of businesses in town for listings on the website and to possibly develop a Google forms spreadsheet that can be used to feed the town website. When they reach out to the businesses, they will use the form to gather information. Don Stein will distribute the business spreadsheet as soon as he and Debbie review it for accuracy.

- **Broadband Services/Task Force** – The Northwest CT Economic Development Corporation has published a broadband guide to help towns form a task force to work with towns' residents to move towards bringing fiber optic internet to the town. Kevin Noblet, Brian, Don and Bob Pulford will take the action to develop a strategy, which will include identifying businesses who would benefit from high speed internet and people who need the high speeds due to working from home or children doing education from home. They will need to develop case studies and

will work with Northwest Connect, which is a non-profit organization working on this issue throughout the northwest corner.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

The meeting recording is available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yewpM4Hy0nlLcpGOz334c7wzMq--eaa8gCUf-aEEmBwklr732cCOCBLb0wfCbkcY>