

**Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Attending members: Mark Mahoney, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Bob Pulford, Brian Johnson and Kevin Noblet. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously, the minutes of the October 17, 2019, meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet presented the final version of the map and a draft discussion of the historic or tourist sites. Initially, the map and the descriptive material will be put on the Town website with the intention of making it interactive. Decisions about printing the map will be made later in the Spring. The artist's work on the map was excellent and his willingness to contribute his time are much appreciated.
- **Welcome Kits** – No update was available since Kathy Williams was unable to attend the meeting
- **Other Initiatives** – Don Stein informed the members that discussions regarding the sewer and water connections with Winsted on the west end of Route 44 were currently at a standstill, as the Regional 7 Board of Education had voted against bringing the sewer line from the Mallory Brook Plaza. He is hopeful that the continued discussions will bring about a solution to this situation. The owner of the Plaza is looking at alternative routes, but the final routing is TBD.

He reported that the new owners of the Old Riverton Inn are still updating the Inn and are enthusiastically working with the other merchants to promote the Inn and Riverton. They hosted events for Christmas in Riverton and the Town Hall's holiday party and plan to re-open their pub in March, once they get the need permits.

The manufacturer of titanium e-trikes (Ti Trikes) has moved into the Century Woodworking building and will be making these bikes at that location. They also have a showroom for selling their products and other similar bicycles.

Christmas in Riverton was a success this year with over 200 people buying glasses for the wine walk on Friday night. There was a good turnout on Saturday for the events and all shows of the Christmas Carol were sold out throughout the weekend.

- **Sustainable CT** – No progress was reported.
- **Business Meet-and-Greet/Volunteer Town Event** – The Commission members concurred with their previous decision to hold a town event (Welcome to Spring??) to recruit volunteers for

non-profits and town groups on March 21 from 12:00 to 4:00 at the Elementary School. Mark Mahoney agreed to organize the event, assisted by Brian Johnson, which has the purpose to try get more residents involved in volunteering for the Town, with tables and handouts being available for the volunteer groups. Entertainment and food will be available as an attraction. Organizations being considered would include FALPS, Lions Club, PTO, Scouts, Women's Club, Recreation and Conservation Commissions, youth sports – baseball, basketball, soccer), Fire Department and ambulance, Robotics and VoAg from Regional 7. Mark suggested this would be a good place for the Kindness in Motion teams from Regional 7 to showcase their projects, and hopefully, there would be info available on recycling (RRDD), and fire safety and CPR from the volunteer public safety departments.

They also decided to schedule the next business meet-and-greet event on March 26, hopefully at the Riverton Inn. More detailed plans will be developed at the January meeting.

- **Discussion** – Don Stein reported to the EDC members that the Northwest CT Economic Development Corporation will be funding several initiatives that encompass a Jobs Hub, the integration of the Discover Litchfield Hills website with the Northwest CT Arts Council, hiring a consultant to work with the towns to promote high speed broadband and to also hire a consultant to promote the area as a good place to live, work and raise kids in an effort to attract young families to move to Litchfield County out of New York or other large, expensive metropolitan areas. There will also be a consultant hired to create “passports” for each of the towns that promote tourist attractions, natural beauty, shops, restaurants, hiking, biking, etc. They will be able to be tailored to the individual town's assets and could be used to assist FALPS, the Historic Society, or other groups by publishing their information, thus avoiding printing costs.
- **Motion:** On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously, an agenda item to approve meeting dates for 2020 was added to the agenda.
- **Motion:** On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, and passed unanimously, the 3rd Thursday of each month was approved as the meeting date for the Commission for 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein