

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Attending members: Kathy Williams, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Tim Sullivan, Brian Johnson and Kevin Noblet. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Motion: On a motion by Kathy Williams, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Kevin Noblet was appointed as the temporary chairman.

Motion: On a motion by Kathy Williams, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Brian Johnson was seated for Ginny Apple.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Tim Sullivan, seconded by Kathy Williams and passed unanimously, the minutes of the September 25, 2019, special meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Community Garden** – Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that the Community Garden was closed out and that the year was a success. Ten of the 11 gardeners indicated they wanted to come back and there are 6 or 7 new folks who have expressed an interest. They will probably add 6-12 new beds and plan to apply to the Northwest Community Foundation for funding for this effort. Dave Lewis and Tim are coordinating with the fire department to facilitate filling of the water tank during the season and the EDC members discussed ways to enhance the contribution of food to the food banks and to provide gardening tips for interested residents during the year. These events would be open to all residents, not just those who are using the beds.
- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet said that the final version of the map will be available within a few weeks and that the artist will not charge for the map. There will be a plan put together to ask local businesses to sponsor the map or have advertisements on it to offset the printing cost.
- **Welcome Kits** – Kathy Williams reported that she had 4 bags that were ready for distribution and that the bags were current through mid-September. She is still gathering material for the additional bags.
- **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 still on-going, but that progress is slow. 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. He also reported that a manufacturer of titanium e-trikes (Ti Trikes) has moved into the Century Woodworking building and will be making and selling these bikes at that location. Christmas in

Riverton is in the planning stage for this year and more info will become available as we get closer to December.

- **Sustainable CT** – No progress was reported.
- **Business Meet-and-Greet/Volunteer Town Event** – The Commission members decided 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, rather than in early November. The purpose for this event is 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. 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.

- **Discussion** – Don Stein and Kevin Noblet discussed the plan to hold a community forum on November 21 to present the fiber optic initiative intended to provide high speed internet throughout the Northwest Corner. Norfolk, Morris and Canaan-Falls Village are actively pursuing this and the forum would focus on explaining this initiative to residents, and to assess the interest in Town for providing gigabit speed internet and improved cell service throughout the Town. This is different than 5G and might involve the establishment of a Town utility. The ultimate goal is to provide 100% high speed coverage of the town with the net costs being roughly the same as people are spending today for phone, TV and internet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein