

**Town of Barkhamsted  
Economic Development Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2019**

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM**

**Attending members:** Bob Pulford, Kathy Williams, Ginny Apple, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Brian Johnson and Kevin Noblet. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

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

**Review of minutes:** On a motion by Ginny Apple, seconded by Kathy Williams and passed unanimously, the minutes of the August 15, 2019, meeting were approved. Brian Johnson abstained.

**Discussion:**

- **Community Garden** – Tim Deschenes-Desmond provided a summary report on the Community Garden results for this summer. Basically, the Methodist Church is pleased with the results of this collaboration as the area looks better and it is a way for them to work with the community. Discussion items included the fact that the Town will provide a 1000 gallon tank that currently is not being used at the Town Garage, which will provide additional capacity for watering the beds. The beds will be cleaned out by October 13 and the material will be staked in one corner of the area by the garden. There will be a request for the Highway Department to haul this organic material away to dispose of it. Planning for next year has started, with a few of the current gardeners saying they would drop out, but there are some new folks interested in participating. Expansion of 6-12 new beds is under consideration and a grant will be sought out for covering the expenses. The issue of how to better provide food to the food bank was discussed, as that has always been one of the goals of this initiative.
- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet brought a draft of the map for review by the Commission. The draft is almost complete and the artist will be finishing it this fall. The artist will be adding kayakers, hikers and the Old Riverton Inn to the map. At that point, the EDC will have to finalize a plan for the use of this map for attracting tourists to the Town.
- **Welcome Kits** – Kathy Williams reported that she had done 8 bags for July and that another 9-10 were required for August and September. The Barkhamsted Women’s Club generously donated 30 bags with the picture of the Town on the bag for use in this initiative.
- **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 had been made. The Winsted Sewer Commission is now willing to consider running the sewer lines up the hill to connect to the Regional 7 manhole, assuming certain conditions are met. There is an engineering analysis of the capacity at the school, which appears to be

satisfactory. Once that report is complete, the needed approvals will be requested so that the project can move forward.

Don Stein reported that there were new owners of the Old Riverton Inn who are actively updating the Inn itself and who are very enthusiastically working with the other merchants to promote the Inn and Riverton. He also reported that a manufacturer of titanium e-trikes is purchasing the Century Woodworking building and will be making and selling these bikes at that location. The trikes are both useful to handicapped folks and to those who want electric assist to make longer and hillier rides possible.

- **Sustainable CT** – No progress was reported.
- **Business Meet-and-Greet** – The Commission will hold a community forum/volunteer day on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Elementary School. Ginny and Kathy will organize it and the intention will be to allow community volunteer organizations, town boards and commissions, and businesses to set up tables and introduce themselves to the residents and/or to solicit participation from volunteers. It is intended to be a resource for these organizations to help each other out and some sort of refreshments will be served to attract participation. The EDC will reach out to all businesses again and hold a business meet-and-greet early next year as was done in the past. These were successful in creating a dialog among various business owners.
- **Discussion** – A brief discussion was held regarding the Discover Litchfield Hills website which is a free website intended to provide insight into events and activities throughout the region. It is available to the Town, but there was concern that it is not attracting enough folks to make entering data into the site worthwhile.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein