

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Attending members: Bob Pulford, Kathy Williams, Tim Sullivan, Ginny Apple, Tim Deschenes-Desmond and Kevin Noblet. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman, and resident Brian Johnson joined at 7:30 to observe the meeting, and is interested in being appointed to the EDC.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Kathy Williams and passed unanimously, the minutes of the June 20, 2019, special meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Community Garden** – Tim Deschenes-Desmond reported that this initiative has been very successful and that the committee is looking to add 6-12 new beds for next year. They have had 4 or 5 additional people expressing interest in participating, and there will be a planning meeting in September to review this season’s activities and to plan for next. Consideration will be given to applying for a grant from the North West Community Foundation to help with the expenses. Their next round of cycle grants is due in November, so the timing is good.
- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet reported that the map had been on hold due to the artist’s newborn child, but that he told Kevin he was shooting to have a color version of the map available by the end of September. Again, consideration will be given to applying for a grant from the North West Community Foundation to help with the expenses.
- **Welcome Kits** – Kathy Williams reported that 10 bags are required for July. She has plenty of material for putting into the bags, but will contact the Women’s Club to purchase additional bags, as she is about to run out.
- **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. More due diligence is necessary and more data will have to be compiled, but this is an optimistic shift in the process.

Don Stein is working with the owner of Riverton Self Storage in an effort to help him develop the front part of the building with shops, a restaurant or other commercial uses. However, no real progress has been made. However, there may be a new bakery coming to Riverton and a new owner of the Old Riverton Inn, so the Riverton Merchants Association will be meeting in an effort to revive this organization to help promote Riverton.

- **Sustainable CT** – No progress was reported.
- **Business Meet-and-Greet** – The commission decided to postpone the next Meet-and-Greet to the beginning of November and to hold it in Riverton. The location will depend on the status of the new businesses in Riverton and whether one of them would be available to host the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein