

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Attending members: Bob Pulford, Kathy Williams, Kevin Noblet, and alternate Rob Fulton. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman. Rob Fulton was seated for Mark Mahoney.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Kathy Williams, seconded by Kevin Noblet and passed unanimously, the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Earth Day** – Despite the negative weather on April 28, the turnout for Earth Day was better than could have been expected. The attendees enjoyed the festivities and spent considerable time with those who had tables set up, or who were doing crafts with the kids who attended. As usual, the food was quite popular and the bird talk, including the pet wild turkey, was a big hit. The members discussed the day and suggested that other events be included (e.g., inviting Roaring Brook to participate or including more interactive events). The sense was that some new activities would draw more attendees since the agenda has been pretty much the same for the past few years.
- **Community Garden** – Thanks to several volunteers, the Community Garden is up and running, with 11 plots spoken for and planted by residents. This very popular initiative was spearheaded by Ginny Apple, Tim Deschenes-Desmond and Dave Lewis, who is a Master Gardener. A ceremony will be held on June 2 at 2:30 PM to officially open the garden and to dedicate it to the memory of Khea Cook, who was a long time member and Chair of the Conservation Commission and very supportive of the Town and its environment.
- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet reported that no progress had been made due to the artist's other commitments.
- **Welcome Kits** – Kathy Williams reported that no bags were given out in May. She reiterated the need to solicit additional materials for the bags as they are running low for supplies. Don Stein will check with the Town Clerk to see if there are no folks who have moved into Town in the last month.
- **Western Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau** – Ginny Apple was appointed to this Board by the Selectmen, but their quarterly meeting has not yet been scheduled. It won't take place until the State funding for tourism is budgeted and/or available.
- **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. The details of the inter-local agreements, the path that will be used to run the piping, the method of financing

and who would own the pipes in Barkhamsted were still being worked out. These discussions are not going as quickly as hoped, but the initiative still has a very high priority for the Mallory Brook Plaza, Lombard Ford and the Mallory Brook Farm.

The 3rd Annual Still River Music Festival will be held in Riverton on June 28th. Hopefully, the weather will be good and the turnout will make it a success. The first two years had decent numbers, but hopefully this is an event that will continue to grow.

- **Sustainable CT** –Don Stein, Ginny Apple and Rob Fulton will meet on Friday, May 31, to flesh out a strategy with the objective for reaching certification this summer. Rob also asked if there were incentives available for installing electric car charging stations, which might be a positive project for Riverton or the Mallory Brook Plaza.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein