

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Attending members: Bob Pulford, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Tim Sullivan, alternate Amy Starr, Mark Mahoney, Kathy Williams, Kevin Noblet, Ginny Apple and alternate Rob Fulton. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Kathy Williams and passed unanimously, the minutes of the February 21, 2019 meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Business Meet and Greet** – The members discussed the Business Meet and Greet held on March 13 at the Brass Horse. There were not as many local businesses in attendance as at the previous events, primarily due to the lack of personal outreach to the businesses. The consensus was that for the next one, the Commission needs to call and/or email individuals rather than relying on social media. The feedback was positive from those in attendance, particularly about Heather Cappabianca, the guest speaker from the Community College. The members felt that these should be held 3 times a year and that setting a theme and having a guest speaker were both very positive. There was discussion about the cost of the events in light of other events or budgetary needs, but the EDC was in favor of continuing to do them at various businesses in Town. The next meeting date and place that were chosen are June 13 at the Riverton General Store (if the weather is inclement, it would be in Riverton Self Storage). Don Stein took the action to reach out to Leslie DiMartino and Brian Riva, the respective business owners, and to send a thank you note to Kim Hamel, who owns the Brass Horse.
- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet provided a draft version of the map for review and comments. The members were very impressed and discussed hosting on the website and providing links on the map with descriptive materials for the tourist sites in Town. Paper copies will be made as tourism is important to the Town's businesses.
- **Welcome Kits** – Kathy Williams reported that two bags will be given out in March and that 6 were used in February. Kevin Noblet offered to deliver the bags to the new residents this month.
- **Other Initiatives** – Don Stein reported that he will attend the Winsted WPCA meeting on Tuesday, March 26 to start the process of bringing sewers and water to the west end of Route 44. This would include the Mallory Brook Plaza, Mallory Brook Farm, Lombard Ford and a few homes and businesses in that area. The new owner of the Plaza is very anxious to get this started so he can redevelop it and bring in new businesses. There was also discussion about how to support the Still River Music Festival (June 22) and Christmas in Riverton (usually the first weekend in December). Amy Starr had talked to Leslie DiMartino and the merchants are

anxious for help especially since the number of merchants and open businesses has decreased in Riverton.

No progress was reported on the Sustainable CT initiative and Don Stein said he would start working on it after budget season and the sewer extensions were further along.

- **Community Garden** – The Pleasant Valley Methodist Church has agreed to make space available for an initial period of 4 years for the installation of 12 raised beds this year and possible expansion next year if there is sufficient demand. It appears that with EDC Town funds, and contributions from other groups in Town that the organizers (Ginny Apple, Tim Deschenes-Desmond and Dave Lewis) will be able to have the garden available this year. Costs include water tanks, lumber for the beds, and other miscellaneous equipment and volunteer help will be required to clear the area and to build and install the beds. Rules will be established for maintaining individual beds, the fee will be \$25 per year, and the beds will be given out by lottery and will be good for a 2-year period.
- **Earth Day** – The Town’s Earth Day festival will be held this year on April 28th and the organizer, Ginny Apple has reached out to folks who have had tables in the past. She discussed the roles of the various volunteers needed and asked that Regional 7 students be solicited to help. Food will need to be purchased and a grill brought in. There was also interest in having the folks from New Hartford Ambulance participate to demonstrate outdoors First Aid.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein