

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

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Attending members: Bob Pulford (7:20), Tim Deschenes-Desmond, alternate Amy Starr, Mark Mahoney, Kathy Williams, Ginny Apple and alternate Rob Fulton. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Tim Deschenes-Desmond was acting Chair until Bob Pulford arrived.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Amy Starr, seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously, the minutes of the December 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- **Business Meet and Greet** – Amy Starr confirmed that the owner of the Brass Horse (Kim Hamel) was interested in hosting the meeting scheduled for March 13. She will offer a free drink to each attendee, followed by a cash bar, but preferred that the EDC provide the food. The food could either be catered or the Commission discussed buying from Costco and asking Kim to heat it in her kitchen. Amy will follow up and start the process of reaching out to the business community and our local educational institutions (NWR 7, Oliver Wolcott Tech and the Northwest CT Community College) since the theme of this meeting will be jobs. It will start at 5:30, with set-up starting at 5:00.
- **Tourist Map** – Kevin Noblet presented a draft of the artist's rendering that will become the tourist map. Comments were provided by the EDC members, who were favorably impressed by this first draft. The suggestions included: highlighting Riverton; showing the campground in American Legion State Forest (including a few tents) and the Peoples State Forest pavilion; including the depiction of the Dam pump house, Squires Tavern and the Pleasant Valley Drive-in; showing opportunities for hiking and biking; and making the depiction trout a little smaller and bears a little larger.
- **Welcome Kits** – The committee provided 7 bags for residents new to town in November and December. Along with home-baked cookies by Debbie Brydon and a welcome letter from the First Selectman, the bags contained information from a large number of businesses and organizations (see the attachment below). This committee deserves thanks from the members for the effort they put into this initiative, along with the Barkhamsted Women's Club who provided the bags, themselves.
- **Other Initiatives** – Don Stein reported that he is still working with Winsted to bring sewers to the Mallory Brook Plaza. Unfortunately, the progress is slow, but there is a feasibility study on-going which will be completed in the next 1-2 months and the Towns will then renegotiate the interlocal agreements for water and sewer before obtaining financing for the project. He is also working with the owner of Riverton Self Storage to try to help him with the development of the front of the former Hitchcock Factory,

- **NWCT Economic Development Summit (see attachment below)** – The members of the Commission were urged to attend the Summit, which will be held in Norfolk on January 29. This is a good opportunity to network and to gain knowledge as to what is going in our part of the State. The speaker will also describe initiatives that have been successful in other small towns and rural communities.
- **Other** – There was no update on the Sustainable CT initiative. The Community Garden committee has been approached by the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church to see if there was interest in locating the garden on their property. Tim Deschenes-Desmond and Dave Lewis will investigate this possibility.

Don Stein reported that a resident in town who has a strong musical and theater background approached him regarding the possibility of summer theaters or a summer music series. He will work with this individual to find a venue and to see if these events can happen this summer.

It was suggested that we start a monthly “business highlight” on the website, so that initiative will be started in the near future. Mark Mahoney reported that the Riverton Self Storage has an office it would like to rent out, maybe on a shared basis among a few businesses. Don Stein will follow up with the owner.

The Barkhamsted Lions is hosting a skating event at the Simsbury Farms rink from 4:30-5:30 on March 9. This is free to all residents and is in lieu of the rink behind the school, which was not installed due to the unfavorable weather.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

Welcome Bag Contents – Nov/Dec 2018

2018 Annual Report

RRDD #1 Brochure

American Legion and People's Forest

Lions Club

Barla and Associates Real Estate

Elyse Harney Real Estate

Events with a Star

Farmington River

Hartford Current

Hartford Health Care

Hitchcock Chair

LaBrie Home Improvements

NW Insurance Services

Old Riverton Inn

Pleasant Valley Drive In

Pleasant Valley Hair

Reservoir Hounds

Riverton General Store

Russ's Septic

Turning Point Reality

Uncle Arron's



REGISTER TODAY!

www.nwcteconomicdevsummit2019.eventbrite.com

NWCT Economic Development Summit 2019:

Think Regionally, Act Locally:

Connecting NWCT to Fiber-Optic Broadband, Innovation, Farms, Arts & Culture

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

6:00pm-8:30pm



Infinity Music Hall

Norfolk, CT

Join us for the 4th annual NWCT Economic Development Summit! Last year was a terrific success with over 140 attendees.

Join us at this historic 300 seat music hall in Norfolk's town center. While there you'll also have a chance to check out the Norfolk Hub (a co-working and community gathering place), walk by the Town Center housing recently renovated by the Foundation for Norfolk Living and see the City Meadow project.

At the summit you'll be inspired by our Keynote Speaker, [Matt Dunne](#), Executive Director of the [Center on Rural Innovation](#), hear success stories and updates on economic development initiatives in our region and learn more about how your town or organization can partner in these efforts. More details on the event and a link to registration to come! Hope to see you there!

Who should attend: Members of local economic development committees, chambers and business groups, land use commission members and municipal leaders in Northwest Connecticut. *There is no cost to attend.*

Questions? Contact: Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOC Community & Economic Development Director jayer@northwesthillscog.org or 860-491-9884