

**Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

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

On a motion by Mark Mahoney, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, and passed unanimously, Rob Fulton and Amy Starr were seated as members for the meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously, the following items were added to the agenda:

- 2019 meeting schedule
- Election of officers

Motion: On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously, the attached meeting schedule was approved for calendar year 2019.

Motion: On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Mark Mahoney and passed unanimously, Bob Pulford was elected chairman of the EDC for 2019.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Mark Mahoney, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- Business Meet-and-Greet held on October 25: Because of the success of this event and the feedback received, the decision was made to hold the next one on the evening of March 13, 2019. Several attendees offered to host the March event, but after discussing the various options in town, the decision was made to contact the Brass Horse to see if they would be interested. Numerous improvements have been made to this restaurant, and the owner is very generous in offering to feed town and state workers during storms, and hosting a Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who wished to attend. The focus will be “jobs”, and if this establishment doesn’t wish to host, other locations were discussed (Log House, Riverton Self Storage) and it was suggested we also involve the Community College, Regional 7 and Oliver Wolcott Tech in the event.
- Tourist Map: Kevin Noblet reported that the artist has committed to starting on January 10, after he completes his current project. It was suggested that consideration also be given to an on-line map with interactive links and that it tie into the discoverlitchfieldhills.com website.

- Welcome bags: The Women's Club has provided 25 bags for the first round of welcome bags. After these run out, they will have to be purchased. Ginny Apple, Kathy Williams and Debbie Brydon met to inventory what had been collected, and Kathy Williams will be storing this material. The hope is that neighbors will also help collect information. Debbie will bake something to go along with the bag and Ginny will do a card with important dates (events, town functions, etc.) and website links. Don Stein took an action to send a thank you note to the Women's club in this regard and for all the other things they do. He will also put together a welcome letter which will include/mention a few details regarding the Senior Center, the volunteer fire departments, and town boards and commissions.
- Various initiatives: Don Stein reported that progress, although slow, was being made on the feasibility study of bringing sewers to Mallory Brook Plaza, and with assisting the owner of the Riverton Self Storage in purchasing an additional lot on School Street, which he needs to expand his business. Don Stein also told the Commission members that a custom, high end furniture business was moving into the building owned by JPS manufacturing. This is a very positive development for the Town and Pleasant Valley.
- Mark Mahoney said that he will work with the Riverton merchants to attempt to expand Christmas in Riverton into the Fairgrounds. He and the other members also discussed the need to thank businesses for being in Town, highlight local businesses on the Town website, welcome new businesses, and ensure we have all of the Town's businesses on the website.
- Don Stein reported that he and Ginny Apple had met and divided up the criteria write-ups for the Sustainable CT initiative and that he would report progress and other needed actions at the next meeting (January 17). He suggested that some of the actions might be appropriate to be picked up by other members of the EDC.
- Don also reported that the community garden activity was still on hold pending a decision at the CT DEEP state park director's office. He will follow up with the Director to see if they will grant permission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM on a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Kevin Noblet.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

**TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING DATES FOR 2019**

January 17

July 18

February 21

August 15

March 21

September 19

April 18

October 17

May 16

November 21

June 20

December 19

The Economic Development Commission meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Barkhamsted Town Hall.