

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

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

On a motion by Ginny Apple, seconded by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, and passed unanimously, Amy Starr was appointed as Acting Chair for the meeting.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Ginny Apple, seconded by Kathy Williams, and passed unanimously, the minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- Tourist Map – Kevin Noblet provided the email he had sent to the artist for the map, along with a link to the artist’s website. The artist has the information he needs to get started and indicated that he will have time to work on it starting in November.
- Business Meet-and-Greet – The meeting will be Thursday, 10/25 at 5:00, at the Log House Restaurant. The goal is to get as many of the local businesses (industrial, commercial and contractors) to mingle and to follow that up with helping the community to know more about the local businesses. The hope is that there will be a good turnout due to social media and personal invitations and that this will be a good opportunity to gather promotional literature for the welcome bags. The meeting structure will be a welcome, introductions by the attendees, discussion of the welcome bags, a survey to get input on the format of the meeting, and a discussion of the NWCT Chamber of Commerce. Literature on the Town’s tax abatement program, the NWconneCT fiber optic initiative, the Discover Litchfield Hills website, and the NW CT arts/community calendar, will also be available.
- Welcome Kit – Amy Starr reported that the Women’s Club is almost done with the final design for the welcome bags and that a prototype will be available for the meet-and-greet. The Club will donate the first 25, but will have to charge for the next quantity when needed. The intention is to fill these bags with information on local businesses and services and to provide them to new people when they move into Town.
- Other Initiatives – Don Stein reported that the feasibility study was underway to look at the sewer and water extension from Winsted to Mallory Brook Plaza, Lombard Ford, Mallory Brook farm and the contiguous area. He and the Winsted Town Manager are working on updating the interlocal agreements for extending both water and sewer. However, there is no real update on this subject.

There is also discussion with the owner of the Riverton Self-Storage building about how that property can be developed, although again there is no news on that initiative.

Mark Mahoney made the suggestion that the EDC help promote Christmas in Riverton through social media and that planning be started for a Fall Festival that could take advantage of the Riverton Fairgrounds. This would be after the Riverton Fair, but before they close off the barns in mid-October as storage rentals. The EDC endorsed this idea and felt that planning needed to take place early in the coming months to give everyone time to develop a comprehensive plan and to solicit various town groups' participation.

- Community Garden –Don Stein had a discussion with the Director of Parks for the CT DEEP who expressed concern about using State park land for a use such as the garden. Don sent a letter to Tom Tyler explaining the plan and is hopeful that DEEP will ultimately approve the use of the desired property that is part of the parcel leased for the Squires Tavern. Once this is resolved, the hope is to get some funding through a grant from the Northwestern CT Community Foundation.
- Sustainable CT – this initiative was tabled until the next meeting, since Ginny Apple and Don Stein will meet in an effort to create a plan and assignments to get the Town certified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM on a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Mark Mahoney.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein