

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM

Attending members: Bob Pulford, Kevin Noblet, Kathy Williams, Ginny Apple, Tim Sullivan, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, and alternates Jenn Roller and Frank Miceli (by phone). Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Tim Sullivan, seconded by Kathy Williams, the minutes of the February 15, 2018 special meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- There was no updates on the Town website and the use of the community calendar by local groups for events in town.
- Kevin Noblet reported that a friend of his (Mike Sudol) will be coming to town and they will tour the area for ideas on the tourist map project. Kathy Williams asked whether the plan was to highlight businesses or not, since it is hard to pick which buildings to highlight, or not. The likely solution is to highlight Pleasant Valley and Riverton as historic districts and not to specify individual businesses. Don Stein said he would reach out to local photographers to provide photos that the artist could use for his renderings on locations in town, once Kevin and Mike provide input into what they will need for the project.
- A meeting was held with Kathy, Jenn, Sue Eastman, Debbie Brydon and Amy Starr regarding the welcome basket initiative. The attendees each took actions to get items that would be used in the baskets and also discussed setting a business networking breakfast on May 2nd. It would be from 7:30-9:00 AM and Jenn Roller and her husband, who own Crystal Peaks have volunteered the use of the facility for this event. This would be for the larger businesses in Town, and would be basically a meet and greet with a minimum amount of formal programs. John Roller is willing to do breakfast for \$10 per head, which would be covered by the EDC funds. Mark Mahoney was planning a similar event, so the group will reach out to him to get his input into the structure of the meeting and the invitee list. There was also discussion about whether it would be practical to allow smaller businesses to set up tables prior to the 4th of July parade to show off their capabilities. This will be brought to the Lions Club since there may be logistical problems and to consider whether a different date should be selected.
- Don Stein reported that there has been little progress regarding the Mallory Brook Plaza and the Hitchcock Self Storage facility, but that he was still hopeful that these properties would be developed and bring new businesses to the Town.
- The EDC discussed the community garden initiative and potential sites for the garden. The first choice is at Squires Tavern, but if that doesn't work, there are possible other sites including the property at the intersection of 318 and 44, which was donated to the American Legion State Forest and the property on River Road (181) in the field in front of the small machining business. Dave Lewis, Tim Deschenes-Desmond and Ginny will meet with representatives from the Barkhamsted Historical Society the week of 4/26 to discuss possibilities.

- Ginny Apple and the commission members discussed the Earth Day festival (April 29) and the need for volunteers to help with various activities for the event:
 - Move tables and chairs – Saturday a.m. at 9:00
 - Obtain two large tents for the band and the guest speaker
 - Move large pallets/wood for a floor for the band to play outside the pavilion
 - Get volunteers with trucks (Bob Pulford/Tim Sullivan/Ralph Scarpino)
 - Talk to
 - Matt Kelly about a tent
 - Kathryn Boughton about video of the guest speaker
 - Keith Archer about VFD support and a gas grill
 - Baked goods are required
 - Don Stein to try to get Tom Tyler from DEEP to attend
 - Jenn Roller will buy food wholesale and the town will reimburse (500 hot dogs and rolls; relish, mustard and ketchup; small packages of goldfish and chips; water; paper plates and napkins)
 - Ginny will arrange pizza from the Riverton Store as in the past

More planning will take place at the next EDC meeting on April 19

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein