

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Attending members: Kevin Noblet (by phone), Kathy Williams, Mark Mahoney, and alternates Jenn Roller and Frank Miceli. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

In the absence of Bob Pulford, Chairman, Don Stein was the acting chair for the meeting. Jenn Roller and Frank Miceli were seated as regular members.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Kathy Williams, seconded by Jenn Roller, the minutes of the December 13, 2017 special meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- Regional Economic Development Forum: Several members of the EDC plus Don Stein attended this event in the Mad River Lofts in Winsted. The mill building is being restored for business occupancy and is likely to be the site of several small businesses. The presentations included the NWConneCT initiative for providing high speed, fiber optic, internet to the region; a proposal for a business incubator for entrepreneurs in various location in the northwest corner; the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy under development to continue the region's status with the U.S. Economic Development Authority; and other discussions of initiatives taking place in the area to promote interest by Millennials to return to the region.
- There is some interest for the purchase of the Mallory Brook Plaza, but no deal has been finalized as yet. Once there is a buyer, the discussions with Winsted regarding sewer and water will be re-started. The EDC members were enthusiastic about trying to attract a Trader Joes to the plaza, but recognized that it would be a difficult sell based on geographic location.
- The Town website and its local, town business directory are fully functional, but it was noted that the directory is not easy to find. Don Stein said he would look at the link to see if there was a better way to highlight it. Also, the businesses need to be reviewed to either add newer businesses or to delete those that are no longer in Town.
- Ginny Apple and Kevin Noblet will be meeting with the artist who will be doing the tourist map/pamphlet for the Town. It will focus on historical sites and natural resources more than businesses except for those like the Old Riverton Inn, which is historically significant.
- The members reviewed the Master Action List for the Sustainable CT initiative to determine which of the actions had already been accomplished by the Town. These include:
 - 1.4 – create and maintain a business-to-business registry
 - 2.8 – Implement Low Impact Development, plus take advantage of the initiatives by the PZC and Conservation Commission, along with the Farmington River Coordinating Committee and Farmington River Watershed Association.
 - 3.1 – Create a Tourism and Cultural Asset Map
 - 4.1 – Review the POCD to determine if it “integrates Sustainability” into the POCD and zoning regs

- 5.4 – Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment – Don Stein agreed to look at how to obtain and install an EV charging station for the Town Hall property
- 6.4 – Renewable energy – the school photovoltaics project should qualify for this action
- 7.1 – The Town will hold an event to promote Sustainability in the Spring and will ask the staff from Eastern Connecticut State University to assist
- 8.2 – The Housing Trust that is being formed to look at housing options should help to satisfy this action
- Items 9 and 10 – Earth Day and the Community Garden that is under consideration should help with these two categories
- Mark Mahoney will plan to hold the business forum/round table event on either April 14th or 21st.
- The committee working on welcome kits will meet on March 14 to plan the contents and to involve the local businesses to help provide material for the kits
- The Earth Day event this year will be held on Sunday, April 29.
- Don Stein, Ginny Apple, Tim Deschenes-Desmond and Dave Lewis met to discuss the concept of a community garden. Jenn Roller and Frank Miceli also said that they would help. The concept is raised beds, 4' x 8' in a location TBD, although the Barkhamsted Historical Society may be interested in locating it on their property. The number of beds will depend on the community interest, which will be determined by a town-wide email and publicity through the newspapers. More information will be available at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein