

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM

Attending members: Ginny Apple, Kevin Noblet, Bob Pulford, Tim Sullivan, Tim Deschenes-Desmond (7:30) and Kathy Williams. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman and Frank Miceli, who is interested in joining the Commission.

On a motion by Kevin Noblet, seconded by Bob Pulford, and approved unanimously, Ginny Apple was appointed temporary chairman for the meeting.

Review of minutes: On a motion by Tim Sullivan, seconded by Kathy Williams, the minutes of the November 16, 2017 special meeting were approved.

Discussion:

- Don Stein provided information about the NWCT Economic Development Summit 2018 to be held on January 30 at 6:00PM at the Mad River Lofts in Winsted. This is the 3rd annual summit and is a good forum to learn about economic development initiative in the region. One of the main topics will be the possible development of a “Rural Innovation Lab” in NWCT, which would be a strategy to attract entrepreneurs and other institutions or businesses to develop innovative ideas in the region. There appeared to be interest from a few of the Commission members to attend.
- Don Stein informed the members that the discussions between Winsted, the property manager for Mallory Brook Shopping Center and Lombard Ford regarding the sewer line extension to the plaza are still on-going. The current status is that Lenard Engineering is developing a quote for the feasibility analysis, which needs to be done in order for the project to proceed.
- Ginny Apple and Kevin Noblet will work together to lay out the Tourist Map so that Kevin’s contact is able to begin working on it. The map is intended to depict a tourist route for the villages and the Town in general.
- On January 18, in Torrington City Hall, there will be a launch event for the Sustainable CT, which is an initiative which the Town can participate in as a way to promote a healthier, more resilient and efficient community, region and State. Through accomplishing a flexible, voluntary set of actions, the Town can achieve certification levels which can then be used as a way to demonstrate the Town’s commitment to sustainability best practices and to potentially access resources and funding to help the community. The EDC expressed interest in this initiative and Ginny, Tim D. and Kathy expressed interest in attending the event.
- The Northwest CT Arts Council commissioned a study of the economic and social impact of the arts in the region and they also publish a monthly calendar of events throughout the region. The economic benefits of the arts to the small businesses and to the region in general were quite clear in the study (a report is available which details all of the financial data) and the Town should be posting events on the calendar as a way to attract folks to the activities which we are holding in Town.

- Mark Mahoney is taking the lead in setting up a business forum/”meet-and-greet” next March which will be held in the elementary school to allow local businesses to set up displays or tables that would introduce the residents to the contractors and businesses in Town. This is a way to promote local businesses and to allow the business owners to mingle and exchange ideas.
- The new town website will have a community calendar option which would allow groups (Historical Society, FALPS, youth sports, etc.) to post events so that residents can see at a glance what is happening in Town. Once the site goes live, it will be publicized to the residents so that they can take advantage of it.
- A community garden has been proposed by a couple of residents as a way to pay tribute to Khea Cook who passed away, and who was very active in promoting the Town and its natural beauty. Tim D. and Dave Lewis, a resident who is a master gardener, will be working on this initiative, once a suitable piece of property is identified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM, on a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Tim Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

The next meeting of the EDC will be a Special Meeting to be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:00PM. Once the 2018 meeting schedule is approved, the regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.
