

**Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM

Attending members: Mark Mahoney, Ginny Apple, Kevin Noblet, and Kathy Williams. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman and Jenn Roller, who is interested in joining the Commission.

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

Review of minutes: Due to the absence of members who had been present at the October 19, 2017, meeting, approval of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

Discussion:

The meeting focused on events in town and how the EDC can assist the organizers of these events and how the events can be used to promote businesses in town. There was also discussion of other specific action items that the EDC should undertake and who would take the lead on these.

- Kevin Noblet will work with a friend who is a graphic artist to create a tourist map for the town that highlights places that are of interest; i.e., a “tourist loop through the town.
- The new town website will have the ability to create layers in the town calendar, one of which will be for recreational or tourist events or non-town meetings
- The business list on the town website will be updated and made more user friendly and consideration will be given to having a table and handouts at Earth Day showing the local businesses
- Mark Mahoney will set up another Riverton strategy meeting and will also work on a format for a business roundtable for local businesses to meet the residents and make them aware of what is available to them from the town’s contractors
- Jenn Roller, Ginny Apple, and Kathy Williams will work with Debbie Brydon to create welcome kits that will provide new residents with information about local businesses
- A community garden will be considered, but a location needs to be determined. Tim Deschenes-Desmond said that Dave Lewis, a master gardener, had offered to help. Riverton behind the Hitchcock store was mentioned as a possibility.
- The Lions Club and FALPS are organizations dedicated organizing events for the benefit of the Town. This includes the 4th of July Parade, the Halloween Haunted House, the ice skating rink behind the school and other Lions’ activities, and FALPS organizes regular hikes, nature talks and other similar events that are intended to help the two State Forests in Pleasant Valley.
- Laura Christie, who has a food truck with her husband, is interested in setting up the truck on a regular basis and location in town, which would allow people to know where to buy her prepared foods.
- Darcy Abbott is planning to have another music festival at the Riverton Fairground and possibly will also promote a chili festival next year.
- Christmas in Riverton allows the local artisans and food vendors to display their products in the Riverton Self-Storage building.

- Don Stein reported that he is working with the owner of the Riverton Self Storage to try to attract businesses into that property and also with the property manager for the Mallory Brook Shopping Center and with Winsted in an effort to bring sewers in to the west end of Route 44 by the Winsted town line.

At the next meeting, the Commission will review this list and the business visitation plan in an effort to assign actions to individuals and to continue the efforts to promote the town and its businesses.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein

***Due to the holidays, the next meeting of the EDC will be a
Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 13 at
7:00PM***

The Barkhamsted Economic Development Commission is interested in getting to better know our many locally owned businesses and their owners. We also want to explore new ways we can help you succeed and grow, because your success is critical to our town's sense of place and quality of life.

We've developed a questionnaire to help in this process, and we'd appreciate your taking the time to respond. It will help us better understand your needs and the ways we might help serve you.

1. Why did you choose to locate your business in Barkhamsted?
2. Is the town or state government now doing anything to help you maintain or grow your business? If so, what?
3. Is there anything specific the town could do to better support you? If so, what is it?
4. Do you believe the town government could play a role in connecting you with other local businesses and/or customers? If so, how should it do this?
5. Would you be interested in a get-together of the town's business owners, to share ideas and opinions?
6. Are you interested in having an experienced local business owner be a mentor to you? Alternately, would you be interested in being a mentor to less experienced owners?
7. Are you interested in sharing services, such as bookkeeping, with other locally owned businesses?
8. Are you familiar with Barkhamsted's property tax abatement program for business expansion? Do you have any short- or long-term plans to apply for it?
9. Are town regulations, including zoning, creating any opportunities or obstacles to your business? If so, can you provide specific examples?
10. Is there an area of importance to you that we have failed to mention in this questionnaire? If so, what is it?

Thanks very much for your time. We're always interested in your thoughts and feedback. The Economic Development Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, and business owners are always welcome to attend and share their thoughts.

TAXPAYER	DBA	IN_CARE_OF	PROP_LOC_ST_NO	PROP_LOC_ST_NAME	
CENTURY WOODWORKING LLC		MALCOLM GETZ	40	RIVER RD	T
DURALITE INC		PAULA JESSEN	15	SCHOOL ST	B
EDWARD E JONES & SONS INC		JOHN JONES	57	RIVER RD	D
FARBIL LLC	SEARS HOMETOWN STORE	THOMAS HUBBARD	380	NEW HARTFORD RD	M
GOULET PRINTERY		CY GOULET	115	NEW HARTFORD RD	G
GREENWOOD PETER	GREENWOOD GLASS		3	ROBERTSVILLE RD	G
HITCHCOCK CHAIR CO LTD LLC	STILL RIVER ANTIQUES	RICK SWENSON	13	RIVERTON RD	D
J BAZZANO COMPANY LLC	PLEASANT VALLEY FENCE	JOE BAZZANO	77	RIVER RD	D
LIGHTSTAT INC		SALLY ROY	22	W WEST HILL	K
LOMBARD FORD INC		ROB LOMBARD	385	NEW HARTFORD RD	M
RIVERTON GENERAL STORE LLC		LESLIE DIMARTINO	2	MAIN ST	G
SORAGHAN CONSTRUCTION LLC	SORAGHAN WOODWORKING	PAUL SORAGHAN	4	OLD NORTH RD	T
STERLING ENGINEERING CORPORATION		CHRIS LAVIERI	236	NEW HARTFORD RD	D
STEWARTS AUTO PARTS INC		GARY STEWART	109	NEW HARTFORD RD	T
TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY	TRACTOR SUPPLY CO #754	MARVIN F POER AND COMPANY	380	NEW HARTFORD RD	?
TRU HITCH INC		MARTY MARTIN	16	W WEST HILL	K
WHITE PINES LLC	WHITE PINES CAMPSITES	RICHARD FINKEL	232	OLD NORTH RD	R
WINSTED FEED & SUPPLY LLC		RICHARD AND MARIAN MILES	240	NEW HARTFORD RD	R
WINSTED HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS			319	NEW HARTFORD RD	R
AERIE MOUNTAIN		ROXANNE LOVELL	100	NEW HARTFORD ROAD	M
BOULDER RIDGE CAMP		KEVIN EBNER	104	GOOSE GREEN ROAD	D