

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
February 5, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.

Attendees: Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Bob Pulford, Todd Winkler, Mark Mahoney, and Don Stein. Also in attendance was Ted Shafer, Economic Development Consultant.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Motion: On a motion by Tim Deschenes-Desmond, seconded by Mark Mahoney, the minutes of the Meeting of January 8, 2024, were approved unanimously.

Discussion: Ted Shafer reviewed the attached set of goals and objectives for his position for this fiscal year.

Highlights of the discussion, which covered other topics as well, include:

- Mark Mahoney reported that the Board of Selectmen is planning a meeting of Town Boards and Commissions and non-profit organizations to brainstorm ideas to benefit the Town. That would be followed by an event at the School for residents to help them understand what these organizations do and, also, to try to recruit members.
- There will be a meet-and-greet at TiTrikes for local businesses, and possibly, the general public. This event will be held in May since it is not needed for SustainableCT Bronze achievement, which would have pushed it back into March. Don and Ted will follow up with the owners of TiTrikes to plan the event. It was suggested that veterans be specifically invited since TiTrikes focuses on wounded veterans with their 3-wheel electric bikes.
- It was also noted that the Town will likely achieve Bronze Certification in Sustainable CT this year, as there have been more than enough points accumulated to qualify.
- The 2023 Business Bingo was not a great success, and it was suggested that the format be reconsidered or that it be replaced with one-day events. The EDC will put this on the agenda for future consideration.

- It was noted that the Town was awarded a grant that will cover 100% of the cost of two Level 2 electric car chargers with two ports each. These will be installed at Town Hall for public use.
- Mark will help to get the Welcome Bag program restarted and will work with Kathy Williams, who has said she would continue to help with this program.
- Fred Newman, who owns Mechanical Advantage auto repair on Route 44, has asked for help with the issue of what is required to remediate pre-existing underground pollution. Don Stein took the action to reach out to CT DEEP to see what can or must be done.
- Now that Tractor Supply is staying at Mallory Brook Plaza and their current store will be vacant along with space along the mall (behind the old movie theater), it was suggested that we reach out to John Senese regarding the possibility of putting in a pickleball/sports facility. This would likely be well-received by residents and neighboring communities.
- It was noted that a business is going into the vacant space at the front of the old Hitchcock factory. It will consist of approximately 50 vendors and the owner is also hoping to do some outside events (e.g. farmers markets). More to follow on this subject.
- The CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) is available for review by the public. It is on the Northwest Hills Council of Government website (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://northwesthillscog.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NHCOG-CEDS-Report_v3.pdf). Receiving public input on the CEDS is required by the US Economic Development Authority, so EDC members are invited to review and comment on the draft document.
- Don Stein is working with the Riverton Fair Association to try to schedule more events at the Fairgrounds. Hopefully, now that COVID is not as much of an issue, and the Town gave the Association ARPA funding with that specific objective, this objective will be able to be met.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein, Chair

BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS				BARKHAMSTED EDC STATUS REPORT - GOALS AND METRICS			
Goal & Metric		EDC Meeting		EDC Meeting	EDC Meeting	EDC Meeting	
		11/13/2023		12/4/2023	1/8/2024	2/5/2024	
Local Business Visitation - Retention							
Goal: 75 annual visits		Coordinated with 23		Xmas in Riverton...	Goulet Printing	Tractor Supply	
		local merchants		Riverton merchants	Winsted Feed	Mechanical Advantg	
		for "Business		visited.	Lombard Ford	Ti - Trikes	
		Bingo" promotion			Subway	Old Riverton Inn	
		game ending 11/15			Riverton Gen Store	Dollar General	
					Log House Rest	Bakery	
		Multiple contacts with			Winsted Hosp Anim	Log House Rest	
		55 local businesses					
		regarding "After Hours"					
		Networking event on					
		11/2/2023 at Sterling					
Business Recruitment							
Communicate with 75 entities annually		Chatted with 20		Spoke w/ businesses	Networked with	NCCC Start-Up Event	
		employers at Winsted		in region at NW CT	30+ Whiting Mills	CBIA Mfg	
		10/11/2023 Job Fair		Chamber events...	tenants and guests	Manufacture CT	
		about Barkhamsted		Economic Summit,	at there holiday	Chamber Meetings	
		economic development		Small biz council,	open house		
				corporate appreciate			
Coordinate Business Networking Event					Ti Trikes	Ti Trikes	
Goal: 2 Events per year		11/2 Business Networking event			Electric Bike	Electric Bike	
		Oct/Nov Business Bingo			Event		
		Electric Vehicle Show tbd with...					
		(Sustainable CT Committee)					
Attend Local Events							
75% of EDC Meetings		Riverton Fair 10/15/2023		Xmas in Riverton		Jan EDC Meeting	
				Squires Tavern	Chamber Holiday		
4 Community/Regional Events					Celebration		
Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies		9/30/2023 ribbon cutting event...					
		Village Gift Shoppe					
Workforce Development					Torrington	Chamber upcoming	
Attend 3 job fairs and /or		Winsted Job Fair 10/11/2023			Job Fair	Job Fair	
Maintain positive working relationships		First Selectman update meeting	CCM conference	Sustainable CT		CEDS plan	
Attend 30 meetings / workshops/		NW CT Chamber events/meeting	NW CT Chamber	board meeting		creation meetings	
events annually		NW CT Community College 10/2	NCCC Workshop...				
		Torrington Mfg Summit 10/20	Lance Leiffert -	CEDS plan			
			"Digital Marketing:	creation meetings			
Business Promotion Event					Plan for 2024	Ti Trikes	
1 event annually		Oct/Nov Business Bingo				Electric Bike	
Sustainable CT Committee							
Goal : bronze level certification		Nov 6th Sustainable CT	Electric Vehicle	Next Meeting in Feb	Meeting TBD		
		Committee Meeting	Event TBD				
Seek economic development							
grants & funding		Potential Sustainable				Potential Sustainable	
		CT matching fund				CT matching fund	
Assist First Selectmen throughout year							
Economic Development content		Business Bingo and					
posting on Town Web Site,		Ribbon cutting on					
		social media and Town					
		web site					
Info Outreach For Businesses					CEDS Survey		
Goal: 3 distributions annually		Nov 2nd Sterling event					
		speaker: John Fiorello					
		from community college					
Other						Referral To SCORE	