

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
March 4, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.

Attendees: Todd Winkler, Mark Mahoney (by phone), Linda Ganem and Don Stein. Also in attendance were Ted Shafer, Economic Development Consultant, and Mark Waterhouse, town resident and community development professional.

Bryan and Bill, owners of the new Shops at Riverton, were in attendance at the meeting to discuss their new business, which opened on March 1 and their vision for the future.

The discussion on this topic lasted until 9:20 PM and no other items on the agenda were acted on or discussed. The minutes of the last meeting and this one and any other business items will be put on the next agenda for action. Ted's monthly report is attached to these minutes.

- The Shops opened for business on Friday, March 1 and through the weekend and were extremely successful. They had 62 vendors and estimated that about 1500 people came through over the weekend. They also have 1100 followers on Facebook.
- Parking is one of the major issues needing consideration. There are roughly 50 spaces behind the self-storage and there is a need for School Street to be a fire lane so parking there is problematic. Also, there are no handicapped-designated parking spaces available near their entrance. This is an issue to be discussed with the owners of the parking area next to Greenwood Glassblowing and the Riverton Fairgrounds.
- They are interested in having farmers' markets and music events several times a year. They also want to do youth events, but all of this must be worked with Planning & Zoning to make sure they are compliant with Town regulations. The possibility of sponsoring a Little League baseball team was discussed.
- They are planning on doing a grand opening with a ribbon cutting on April 6, which will make space even tighter, including the parking. It was agreed that there would be another meeting mid-March with the EDC and the Riverton Merchants to plan out

the opening event. Don Stein will call Norman Bird, Riverton Fire Chief, about the need for fire police, and will set up the special meeting to plan the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein, Chair

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