#### **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

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Goal & Metric		EDC Meeting 11/13/2023		12/4/2023	_	1/8/2024	_	2/5/2024		3/4/2024		
ocal Business Visitat	ion - Retention	11/13/2023		12/4/2023	1	1/0/2024		2/ 3/ 2024		3/4/2024		
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Community/Region						Celebratio	n			Ribbon Cut		
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