



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

August 26, 2026 at 7pm
IN-PERSON AT BANTAM ANNEX

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm
2. Members Present: Renee Betar, Tom Roman, Cleve Fussenich, Lindsay Turner, Tara Marie Bares, Victoria Butkus, Amanda Glover
Members Absent: Missy Lafferty, Michelle Murelli
3. Motion to approve minutes of July 29, 2026 meeting. Tara motions, Cleve seconds. All in favor.
4. Public comment: Evan Dobos present to discuss the database
5. Ongoing business:
 - **Litchfield Day 2027** : Litchfield Day committee to meet in early October 7 at 11:30am
 - **Marketing collateral**
 - Maps (review quotes)
 - Artwork quotes for maps: narrowed to two local artists pending fiscal review of the bids.
 - Watercolor, classic styled map, including 20 landmarks, representing 5 boroughs for print distro. QR code to visitlitchfieldct.com
 - One-sheet tri-fold: Renee feedback - include religious entities, wellness, camping?
 - Guides distribution : Motion to proceed with 3k units ordered. Tara motions, Lindsey seconds, all in favor. Cleve volunteers to physically deliver to Big E.
 - **Business Database** : Verification progress: approximately 60-75% of entries completed
 - Implementation of advanced AI processing tools
 - Final validation via manual review remains mandatory
 - **Info booth**: David Little and Dick Sheldon opening the doors, next year bring in new people, call for volunteers in March Historical Society docent can be trained
 - **CT Main Street (Bantam)** - Bantam is not ready to move forward
 - **Signage**
 - EDC: Circling back (content below LITCHFIELD oval) — villages vs. general terms vs. specific attractions
 - Discussed signage content for the five villages and agreed that signs should be placed in highly walkable areas. The current budget allows for exactly 4.3 signs, which requires further specificity

regarding final quantities.

Moving forward, the next steps are:

- Design review: Tara will take the draft design to the Seherr-Thoss Foundation and work in tandem with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to review it. This review must take place during a public meeting, as it falls under the purview of the design and review committee.
- Quote revision: Tara will contact Write Way Sign Solutions to secure a revised quote based on these updated parameters.

2027 planning:

- Litchfield Build & Design Fair - Lindsay scouted the location at Wisdom House. Rental cost for the day needs to be determined. Weekend date in Early spring 2028? It has been identified that late Fall is the best time for contractors/vendors.

6. New business

- **DECD 2025 Economic Action Plan** (submitted to Governor's Office for approval on June 4, 2026; approval was received on July 17, 2026)
- **NHCOG board meeting:** recommendation made for EDC to suggest a moratorium on data centers to the BOS

7. Finance

- **Additional grant opportunities:**
 - CT Office of the Arts (supporting arts grant) Funding to earmark for cultural districts
 1. The program will launch for FY27 this summer with a deadline in August/September
 2. Potential projects: Litchfield Exchange, ongoing marketing support, artistic map, Borough of Litchfield arts district

8. Adjourn at 8:42 Tara motions, Lindsey seconds.

Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 7pm at the Bantam Annex.

Minutes by Amanda Glover