

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

September 30, 2026 at 7pm

<https://frontier.video.ringcentral.com/join/161959663?pw=278672520384586df676ede790f2bfca>

VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON at Bantam Annex

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

2. *Present:* Cleve Fussenich, Renee Betar, Victoria Butkus, Michele Murelli, Amanda Glover, Tara-Marie Lynch Bares
Victoria and Renee appointed as alternate members

Not present: Tom Roman, Lindsey Turner, Missy Lafferty

3. Approve minutes of August 26, 2026 meeting. Tara motions, Michelle seconds, all in favor

4. Public comment

- Review article submitted by a member of the Litchfield public spotlighting Ancram, NY: need for living wages for ag workers and affordable housing. The resident notes the story is relevant to EDC.

- Cleve to give a 10-15 minute EDC presentation to the Housing Trust. Victoria notes: Farm owners have a grant opportunity to create Airbnb for agritourism. Upcoming Annex hearing - affordable housing units proposed.

5. Ongoing business:

- Plein Air Litchfield! Has new Board members, 2 additional pop-up art shows, 7-8 additional pieces sold. 20/30 artists sold pieces. Data has been collected and is being analyzed, community response has been one of a sense of pride for their hometown. Kids/Young adults Plein Air Day.

- Litchfield Day 2027 — next meeting on October 7 @ 11:30am at the Village

- Marketing collateral

- Maps (review quotes)

- T. Bares presents and discusses the following vendors who submitted proposals:
 - Aaron
 - Shannon
 - Harmony

Amanda motions to amend agenda, Victoria seconds. Tara recommends Shannon based on her competitive estimate and value for services rendered.

Michelle motions to hire Shannon. Victoria seconds, all in favor.

- One-sheet tri-fold

- 3,000 one-sheeters printed
- Cleve completes the The Big E! delivery
- Historical Society next for Scarecrows in the Meadow

- Guides distribution is suggested: CP Farmhouse, Abner, Litchfield Inn, Lost Fox, Info Booth

- Business Database- Missy to update the group next month.

- Info booth - Cleve suggests restaurants put their menus in the info booth. Tara to email restaurants to solicit copies.

- 2027 planning:

- Litchfield Build & Design Fair (spring 2028) Several EDC members went to the Aging Well event at Wisdom House, which might not be the best location.

6. New business

- ZEO - NWCOG: EDC can learn a lot from the policies of surrounding towns, will make an agenda item for discussion. Tara to circle back with Denise.

7. Finance

- Treasurer role still vacant.
- Update on CT Office of the Arts - administratively we are not eligible with the current fiscal setup. Need a line item in the budget.
- Seherr-Thoss grant application: October 16

8. Adjourn at 8:13pm. Tara motions, Michele seconds, all in favor.

Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm at the Bantam Annex.