

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EDC Regular Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2021 **DRAFT**
Bantam Annex 80 Doyle Rd. Bantam, CT 06750

1) Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Will Neary, Chair.

Present: Present Regular Members: Anne Haas, Tom Roman, Will Neary, Christine Harding, Michele Murelli, Cleve Fuessenich

Present Alternate Members - Renee Betar, Danielle Muecke

Ex-officio: Denise Raap not in attendance

Missing: Lindsay Turner, DJ Murphy

Member of Public: Tara Lynch and Robert Kwalick

2) Approve minutes of August 25, 2021 EDC regular meeting: Correct Names

Anne Haas, Cleve Fuessenich, Michele Murelli with changes

Michele Murelli motion to accept minutes with changes, Cleve Fuessenich seconded. as amended all in favor: Minutes have been approved as amended Anne motioned, will seconded

3) Public Comment: Robert Kwalick Bantam Cinema: Classes, Movies, Performances, expand film programming ie: Family friendly Trying to be an Economic Driver to bring more people to town. Soft opening in Mid-October for donors. On screen advertising, local businesses can sponsor a performance of sorts.

Contact information business card 860-361-6066 or bantamcinema.org

Tara Lynch: CMO very interested in small town growth

4). EDC task force updates

- a. Proposed Events - Need to find money before we can pick a date. \$250 approx. cost for parking/police Michele Bantam Arts Factory: Open House for Bantam Makers Market, TBD Arts Council meeting 2nd tuesday of the month 12:30 Bantam Borough Hall
- b. Marketing and Branding Litchfield – Lindsey, Will
 - i. Branding Litchfield Website should be up and running before the end of October, Doug will be the person for content. Instagram Visitlitchfieldct 1091 Followers/61 posts, 5 Reels, 12,500 views Facebook: 1248 likes, 1528 followers Will is going to find out exactly what is allowed through the FOIA.
 - ii. Proposed “Made In Litchfield” - Makers Market Made in Litchfield
 - iii. Proposed NO CHANGES OR UPDATES: Holiday Stroll Sunday after Thanksgiving Park and Rec and Union Savings- Lindsey will contact- Union Savings to see how we can help.
 - iv. Proposed NO CHANGES OR UPDATES: Restaurant Week February / Valentine's Day Saturday 2/12 - 2/20 (?)
 - i. Passport for Restaurant Week Contact list for all restaurants
 - ii. Lunch and Dinner, at least 1 Prix Fixe menu option
 - iii. Boho Alyssa Malloy 860-484-1452
 - iv. Will to distribute list of all restaurants and assigned contacts to edc by 9/1
 - v. Proposed NO CHANGES OR UPDATES: Porch Concerts/Outdoor Stroll businesses outside/Sidewalk festival
 - i. Borough must be included in this process - Summer 2022
 - vi. Proposed NO CHANGES OR UPDATES: Bocce league in the summer

5). Tourism - Tom

- Western CT Tourism District - Proposed mobile coupon app, newsletter sponsorship opportunities, coop social media, looking to make more connections, eblasts encouraging participation, generating awareness, Once they vote, we can share our events. Tom will keep us updated. Cleve will scan slideshow and distribute.
- Information Booth- Renee - Days open 5/1 thru 11/1
- d. LABA Update – DJ - NOT IN ATTENDANCE: October night meeting Black Bear Thursday 10/9

Laba For non profits interested in a table blackbearamericanmusicfest.com hit the link. Cleve and Renee assembling a directory of business and services in the area.

f. Opening A Business in Litchfield – Christine, Danielle Goal - to complete by end of year.. Work with Realtors to help them to guide appropriately. Strong discussion on businesses outside of the Green, cottage industry businesses. Discussion on all the Litchfield Businesses up and down Route 202 and the surrounding roads that are still very much a part of our town.

g. Signs and Parking Cleve and Anne will check on status

6). Old and Unfinished Business

a. Litchfield Arts Council : Meets second tuesday of the month 12:30 Bantam Borough Hall

7). New Business: Railroad platform, State owns property, Howard Pinkus President of Heritage railroad, lease varies in width, need new survey. Lease and the operating rules, waiting on call back. Tom will keep us posted and updated.

8). Motion from Anne, going to Board of Selectmen asking for hiring a recording secretary \$20/25 per hour. Michelle seconds the motion all in favor! Write an email to Anne Combs and First Selectmen

9). Movement to adjourn: Will moves to adjourn, Christine seconds, all in favor 8:57pm

Next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Harding-Abbott
Secretary, Litchfield Economic Development Commission

Litchfield Economic Development Commission Mission Statement (adopted 06/10/2020) The mission is to promote sustainable economic diversity for Litchfield.