

**Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

Attending members: Ross Herzog, Ginny Apple, Bob Pulford, Tim Sullivan (7:25) and Kathy Williams. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Review of minutes: On a motion made by Kathy Williams, seconded by Bob Pulford, and passed unanimously, the minutes of February 16, 2017 were approved.

Discussion: Don Stein reported that he, Bob Geiger, Leslie DiMartino, Georgia Nash, Bob Pulford and Dave Hurley (New Hartford) met with Ron Coleman and toured the old Hitchcock factory. There were no obvious ideas on how to develop the factory, which is mostly used by Riverton Self Storage on the first floor. The first floor and the front part of the second floor could be good spots for the kind of development in the Hurley Manufacturing Building in New Hartford (restaurant, pub, artisans, etc.), but the back part of the second floor only had windows on one side of the building and the ceilings were low (probably about 7'). Don Stein will also contact Allan Borghesi to look at the building to see if he has any thoughts or useful contacts, and will continue to work with the owner to see if there are other approaches to developing that property. In addition, Don Stein will contact the owners of the Old Riverton Inn to better understand their plans for that property, which is on the market.

Discussion: Don Stein showed the Commission the flyer from the Still River Music Festival to be held on the Riverton Fairgrounds on June 24. The organizer is selling sponsorships, will highlight local bands and food vendors and expects to hold the festival from noon until 10:00PM. That event, coupled with the Town's Earth Day on April 30, the Haunted House sponsored by the Lions Club in October, the Riverton Fair, and Christmas in Riverton provide a steady schedule of events that will attract tourists to town. Kathy Williams and Ginny Apple are also planning to have an event in the Fall after Labor Day, which is envisioned to be a "wagon farmers market". In essence, it will be a mini-Farmers Market, with the food being brought in on horse-drawn wagons.

Discussion: Ginny Apple presented her plan for the Town's 4th Annual Earth Day Celebration to be held this year on Sunday, April 30. This event which has drawn increasingly larger crowds will be similar to the past events with a bird show, local vendors who have natural products, participation by town groups like FALPS, the Conservation Commission and others who support the environment.

Commission members will be asked to volunteer that day for setup and cleanup and other needed tasks.

Discussion: The brochure that Kevin Noblet is working on with a friend is still in process and the commercial tourist map should also be available when it is completed. It was felt that the combination of these two flyers should be beneficial to acquainting folks with our area. Ginny will also look at the State Tourist website visitct.com to make sure it is up-to-date with our businesses and other tourist attractions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM, on a motion by Kathy Williams and seconded by Tim Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein
First Selectman

12/23/2016

Dear First Selectman Donald Stein,

The purpose of the communication is to confirm that the meeting date schedule for the Economic Development Commission (EDC) will continue for 2017 on the third Thursday of each month.

01/19/2017 @7:30 PM

02/16/2017 @7:30 PM

03/16/2017 @7:30 PM

04/20/2017 @7:30 PM

05/18/2017 @7:30 PM

06/15/2017 @7:30 PM

07/20/2017 @7:30 PM

08/17/2017 @7:30 PM

09/21/2017 @7:30 PM

10/19/2017 @7:30 PM

11/16/2017 @7:30 PM

12/21/2017 @7:30 PM

Ross Herzog

EDC Chairman