

## **Barkhamsted Economic Development Study Committee Minutes of April 8, 2009 Meeting**

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Attendees: Roger Behrens, Mike Casale, Debbie Ciriello, Leslie Cosgrove, Leslie DiMartino, Bill Downes, Karl Gallmeyer, Christina Lavieri, Bill Pratt, Don Stein

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

### **Discussion:**

**Economic Development Study Status:** Relative to the overall economic development strategy for the town, Leslie Cosgrove provided the following status report for Garnet Consulting:

- Initial focus has been on Riverton, but they are currently reviewing the town demographics, primarily the Route 44 parcels and the zoning and wetlands along the state highway.
- They will shortly be sending out a survey to the businesses in town to determine the pros and cons of doing business in Barkhamsted. This will potentially result in recommendations for improved zoning or other incentives for businesses.
- Consideration will be given to a Main Street structure for Riverton and formation of a formal Economic Development Commission for the town, which is allowed by town ordinance and which is defined in the state statutes.
- The town will be adding a town business directory on its website.
- There was also discussion of the benefits of a GIS database for town property for use by those interested in relocating.
- The plan is to complete the study and report to the committee by mid-May. The final report would then be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

**Riverton Update:** Mike Casale reviewed the Vision Statement for Riverton, which had been developed at the first community meeting that focused on Riverton as people hoped it would be in 2020. He also presented a series of logos that could be used by the Merchants Association to promote the area and presented a preliminary schedule of events that are intended to bring more people to Riverton to enjoy the area and to help the merchants.

The members of the committee also discussed the need to draw people from outside the immediate area, using techniques such as the local cable tv station, Diane Smith's show on CPTV, small concerts which fit Riverton's natural attractions and the American Mural project scheduled to be built in Winsted.