

**Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:42 PM

Attending members: Ross Herzog, Ginny Apple, Bob Pulford 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 Bob Pulford, seconded by Kathy Williams, and passed unanimously, the minutes of January 19, 2017 were approved.

Discussion:

The Commission discussed the possibility of starting a Farmers Market a few times during the season, but did not come to any real conclusion. Don Stein has reached out to Anita Barden of New Hartford to discuss the role of a Market Manager, who in some cases holds a paid position. Kathy Williams mentioned that Otis, MA is doing the equivalent of a CSA for their market, in which residents purchase shares and are then allowed to take advantage of multiple farmers' goods. Kathy and Ginny Apple agreed to take the action to look at organizing a market which would be a food festival featuring the produce coming in on old fashioned wagons. The day could then be turned into a festival beyond just the farmers, and could include hayrides and other entertainment.

Don Stein told the Commission that when the Town re-does its website this summer, the calendar on the website would likely have the ability to provide a community calendar for recreation and other events, as well as municipal meetings.

Brochure and walking map – Kevin Noblet has an artist willing to do a map/flyer for tourism for the Town and would likely be willing to create it for a modest amount (a few hundred \$?). The Commission will look into grants from the Community Foundation to cover this cost. In addition, Miles for Smiles maps will be doing a typical tourist map with Winsted on one side and Barkhamsted/Colebrook and New Hartford on the other. The costs of this map and the printing/distribution is covered by advertisements sold, and Don Stein will be working with the owner to help them get sufficient ads from Barkhamsted businesses.

Don Stein will be meeting with the folks who operate the self-storage business in the Hitchcock factory to see if there are ideas that would help them sell the building or develop it like the Hurley building in New Hartford. Participants will be Bob Geiger, Bob Pulford, Leslie DiMartino, Georgia Nash, Allan Borghesi and Dave Hurley. There will also be a Riverton merchants meeting on March 18 to discuss events for the year that will help promote Riverton and its merchants.

The Commission discussed the Northwest Economic Development Forum and the results of the survey conducted for the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Key findings were that welcome kits were a positive item for new businesses (Ross to contact Sue Eastman and Jennifer Roller, who have offered to help put these kits together) and that the Town should take advantage of the CTVisits webpage to advertise tourist attractions and events. There is also a best practices summary which was handed out which encouraged business visitation, organizing town activities, focusing on tourism and internet connectivity and collaboration with the BOE to advocate for our schools.

Motion: On a motion by Ginny Apple, seconded by Bob Pulford and approved unanimously, Ross Herzog was re-elected as the chairman of the Commission.

Motion: On a motion by Ginny Apple, seconded by Bob Pulford and approved unanimously, the attached meeting schedule (3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30) was approved. This is the same schedule that Ross Herzog had submitted to the Town Clerk in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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