

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM

Attending members: Ross Herzog, Ginny Apple, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Bob Pulford and Kathy Williams. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Review of minutes: On a motion made by Ginny Apple, seconded by Kathy Williams, and passed unanimously, the minutes of June 15, 2017 were approved.

Discussion:

- Don Stein informed the Commission that the Still River Music Festival was deemed a success by the organizer, since over 500 people attended. She intends to do it again next year and hopefully attendance will build from this year. In addition, there will be the usual fall events in Riverton – the Haunted House, the Riverton Fair, and Christmas in Riverton. The Hitchcock factory is being bought with the closing scheduled for August 24 and the new owner is anxious to add other businesses into the building besides the self-storage, so that will hopefully help attract more people into the Village. Don Stein will be working with the new owner to introduce him to individuals who might be able to help.
- Ginny Apple will be the focal point for putting events onto the State Tourism website/calendar, which will help publicize things happening in town. The Tourism map is still being worked on, but the commercial map that was prepared has gotten very widespread circulation.
- Mallory Brook Plaza has been officially foreclosed and the owner is actively working on ways to make it more saleable. Don Stein is working with the property manager in an effort to get them to commit to water and sewers from Winsted, which would make the property more saleable. The owner is trying to figure out whether they need to do this improvement or leave to the new owner to decide.
- Welcome baskets – Debbie Brydon and Jen Roller have volunteered to help the EDC with welcome baskets for new residents; and Ginny and Kathy have agreed to help with this initiative. The intention is to gather information or giveaways from local merchants to give to folks when they move to town and the suggestion was made to actually do this for folks who moved within the past two years. The suggestion was to do a quarterly event for residents with the businesses in town to introduce them to local service providers. These events could rotate among various, suitable locations within the town.
- Business visitation with local businesses needs to be restarted and will consist of evening events providing information on things the Town can do for the business and for one-on-one visits with the business owners. Don Stein will circulate the list and the questions previously developed.
- Other suggestions for implementation is a community calendar, both monthly and for the year, which shows all events in town and possibly developing a community garden for residents who do not have the room for a vegetable garden.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein