

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

Attending members: Ross Herzog, Ginny Apple, Mark Mahoney and Bob Pulford. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Review of minutes: A motion was made by Ginny Apple, seconded by Mark Mahoney, and passed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting.

Discussion:

- The Commission discussed the CT Main Street Center presentation at the New Hartford Town Hall and the Town's history with the CMSC. The CMSC focuses on rehabbing village centers and promoting/branding of these communities. They had worked with the Town on Riverton improvements, but at this time, it does not appear that we could take advantage of their services. If there starts to be some commercial growth in Riverton or Pleasant Valley, we can relook at membership.
- Ginny Apple reported that the artist, who is a Northwest Community College student, is still working on the artwork for the tourist brochure/map. Ginny also suggested that the content of the brochure be coordinated with the Barkhamsted Historical Society's pamphlet in terms of things to do in Town. She also stated that the plan for future Earth Day events was that they would occur on the last Sunday of April in order to avoid conflicts with fishing season and the opening day of Little League baseball.
- Don Stein reported that he and Bob Geiger were working with Ron Coleman (who manages the old Hitchcock properties) and Rick Swenson (Hitchcock Furniture in Riverton) in an attempt to help them come to agreement on the property in Riverton, which was the old warehouse site. This activity is purely advisory and any property sale would be purely between the two principals.
- The group of stakeholders working on possible development/improvement of the path between Pleasant Valley and New Hartford will meet in the second half of August. All needed reviews by the town and state agencies will be scheduled once the full plan is in place. These reviews will include wildlife, wetlands and other issues that will be identified and resolved before the path is put upgraded. Grants will also be sought out to reduce the cost of the project to taxpayers. The EDC did discuss possible benefits of the path and how it is intended to provide recreation and tourism improvements for the towns.
- The EDC is still interested in looking at lighting the Pleasant Valley Bridge for the winter holidays as a way to gain attention for the Town. Solar electrical supply as well as possible hook-up of electrical service to the bridge for the lights were discussed. Don Stein has the action to

develop the most feasible approach to providing electricity and to work with the State to gain permission for this project.

- Don Stein informed the Commission that a new group has been formed, called Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forest (FALPS). This group is being formed in Barkhamsted to support the two State Forests in Pleasant Valley. It is composed of a number of local citizens and is modeled after Friends groups throughout the state. It is a volunteer group who will be advocates for the forest- everything from the trees, the geology, the history, the management, the wildlife, the streams, etc.
- Don Stein also took an action to develop a plan for building a bridge north of Pleasant Valley across the Farmington where the bridge was until it was washed out in the 1955 flood. This is part of the focus of the EDC on tourism, which includes seasonal events, the tourist map, the bridge lighting, helping Hitchcock find investors, the path through the Greenwoods property.
- The Commission was also interested in reviving the idea of a community calendar, which has also been advocated by the PTO. This could include events for the PTO, Lions Club, FALPS, EDC, Recreation, youth sports, etc., and is similar to the Google calendar set up by Brad Martin a few years ago.
- Annual events currently planned are:
 - Halloween haunted house and celebration – this will be run by the Town Recreation Department and the Lions Club. Don Stein took the action to contact Ron Coleman to determine if they could hold this event in the front part of the old Hitchcock Factory (*Ron did agree to this use and the Lions Club was informed of the need to work out the details with him*).
 - Christmas in Riverton (Riverton Merchants)
 - Riverton Fair (Union Agricultural Society)
 - Earth Day (EDC)
 - FALPS Annual Meeting
 - Winter and Summer events - TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein
First Selectman