

**Town of Barkhamsted  
Economic Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2016**

**Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM**

**Attending members:** Ross Herzog, Ginny Apple, Bob Pulford, Tim Sullivan, Bill Bowles and Kathy Williams. Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

**Review of minutes:** On a motion made by Bob Pulford, seconded by Tim Sullivan, and passed unanimously, the minutes of August 18, 2016 were approved. One typo correction was noted: the 8/18/16 meeting was called to order at 7:42, not 7:72 PM.

**Discussion:**

**Business Visitation Plan** – The members discussed the plan, but indicated that little progress had been made. The questionnaire and visitation assignments are attached to the minutes. Don Stein said that he had been working with various merchants in Riverton to try to come up with a new strategy to improve the business climate and the number of businesses in the Village. This included meetings with Ron Coleman of Hitchcock Properties, who would be interested in selling the old Hitchcock factory on the Farmington River. Don will set up a visit with local investors and/or developers in an effort to try to get something moving on this very desirable property.

Ginny Apple took the action to come up with a proposed “Business Fair” which would be held in the spring in an effort to engage our local businesses and to improve communications between the Town and the businesses and among the businesses themselves.

**Community Calendar/Brochure/Walking Map** – there were no updates available on these items, except that the members indicated that the use of a community calendar was probably not worthwhile due to the use of social media and the number of followers for the town Facebook page, home page and the town email list. Kevin Noblet had identified an artist who would be interested in doing the map/brochure. He was not in attendance to report on his progress on this subject.

**Other Business** – Bob Pulford made the suggestion that we brainstorm ideas for festivals, like scarecrows, pumpkins on the River, a fishing theme, movies at the drive-in, etc. to supplement the existing events in town in an effort to promote tourism. This item will be on the next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM, on a motion by Tim Sullivan and seconded by Bob Pulford.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein  
First Selectman

The Barkhamsted Economic Development Commission is interested in getting to better know our many locally owned businesses and their owners. We also want to explore new ways we can help you succeed and grow, because your success is critical to our town's sense of place and quality of life.

We've developed a questionnaire to help in this process, and we'd appreciate your taking the time to respond. It will help us better understand your needs and the ways we might help serve you.

1. Why did you choose to locate your business in Barkhamsted?
2. Is the town or state government now doing anything to help you maintain or grow your business? If so, what?
3. Is there anything specific the town could do to better support you? If so, what is it?
4. Do you believe the town government could play a role in connecting you with other local businesses and/or customers? If so, how should it do this?
5. Would you be interested in a get-together of the town's business owners, to share ideas and opinions?
6. Are you interested in having an experienced local business owner be a mentor to you? Alternately, would you be interested in being a mentor to less experienced owners?
7. Are you interested in sharing services, such as bookkeeping, with other locally owned businesses?
8. Are you familiar with Barkhamsted's property tax abatement program for business expansion? Do you have any short- or long-term plans to apply for it?
9. Are town regulations, including zoning, creating any opportunities or obstacles to your business? If so, can you provide specific examples?
10. Is there an area of importance to you that we have failed to mention in this questionnaire? If so, what is it?

Thanks very much for your time. We're always interested in your thoughts and feedback. The Economic Development Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, and business owners are always welcome to attend and share their thoughts.

TAXPAYER	DBA	IN_CARE_OF	PROP_LOC_ST_NO	PROP_LOC_ST_NAME	EDC VOLUNTEER(S)
CENTURY WOODWORKING LLC		MALCOLM GETZ	40	RIVER RD	Tim/Don
DURALITE INC		PAULA JESSEN	15	SCHOOL ST	Bob P./Don
EDWARD E JONES & SONS INC		JOHN JONES	57	RIVER RD	Don/Tim
FARBIL LLC	SEARS HOMETOWN STORE	THOMAS HUBBARD	380	NEW HARTFORD RD	Mark
GOULET PRINTERY		CY GOULET	115	NEW HARTFORD RD	Ginny
GREENWOOD PETER	GREENWOOD GLASS		3	ROBERTSVILLE RD	Ginny
HITCHCOCK CHAIR CO LTD LLC	STILL RIVER ANTIQUES	RICK SWENSON	13	RIVERTON RD	Don
J BAZZANO COMPANY LLC	PLEASANT VALLEY FENCE	JOE BAZZANO	77	RIVER RD	Don
LIGHTSTAT INC		SALLY ROY	22	W WEST HILL	Kevin/Bob P.
LOMBARD FORD INC		ROB LOMBARD	385	NEW HARTFORD RD	Mark/Ross
RIVERTON GENERAL STORE LLC		LESLIE DIMARTINO	2	MAIN ST	Ginny
SORAGHAN CONSTRUCTION LLC	SORAGHAN WOODWORKING	PAUL SORAGHAN	4	OLD NORTH RD	Tim/Don
STERLING ENGINEERING CORPORATION		CHRIS LAVIERI	236	NEW HARTFORD RD	Don
STEWARTS AUTO PARTS INC		GARY STEWART	109	NEW HARTFORD RD	Tim/Bill
TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY	TRACTOR SUPPLY CO #754	MARVIN F POER AND COMPANY	380	NEW HARTFORD RD	??
TRU HITCH INC		MARTY MARTIN	16	W WEST HILL	Kevin/Bob P.
WHITE PINES LLC	WHITE PINES CAMPSITES	RICHARD FINKEL	232	OLD NORTH RD	Ross/mark
WINSTED FEED & SUPPLY LLC		RICHARD AND MARIAN MILES	240	NEW HARTFORD RD	Ross/Bob P.
WINSTED HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS			319	NEW HARTFORD RD	Ross/Bob P.
AERIE MOUNTAIN		ROXANNE LOVELL	100	NEW HARTFORD ROAD	Mark
BOULDER RIDGE CAMP		KEVIN EBNER	104	GOOSE GREEN ROAD	Don/Bill