

Town of Barkhamsted
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2015

Meeting called to order by at 7:40 PM

Attending members: Bob Geiger, Ross Herzog, Ginny Apple, Gail Bates, Bill Bowles, Mark Mahoney, Kevin Noblet (phone). Also present was Don Stein, First Selectman.

Review of minutes: A motion was made by Bob Geiger and seconded by Bill Bowles to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved, with abstentions from Gail Bates, Bill Bowles and Mark Mahoney. Ginny Apple requested a correction to delete an apostrophe from “EDCs” in the 5th paragraph.

Discussion: The Commission reviewed the Commission’s charter and the Economic Development Strategy report that had been prepared by Mark Waterhouse and Leslie Cosgrove for the EDC. The conclusion was that these documents were still applicable and did not require updating.

Events:

- Earth Day (April 26) – Ginny Apple reported that all exhibitors from last year, including A Place Called Hope, will be returning. Additionally, the MDC will set up a booth and a decoy maker will participate. Ginny is trying to set up a hike, Bill Bowles offered to get an archaeologist from the State to come, and the fire department has offered to help with lighting for the pavilion. Ginny will have more detailed assignments available for the next meeting.
- Mark Mahoney provided a straw-man agenda for a “Halloween Riverside” event that the Lions Club would like to organize at the Riverton Fairground. This would be a full weekend event included a haunted house, a hayride and other similar activities. Mark is going to follow up with the Fairground Association to determine if they will support this event.

Brochure/Walking Map – Ginny has an artist who is interested in preparing a tourist/walking/hiking map(s) for the town. There is still an open issue as to whether it is allowable for the town to charge local businesses to advertise on the map. This item will be considered at the next meeting.

Business Support – Don Stein took an action to contact JoAnn Ryan of the Northwest Chamber to solicit her support of a business forum to be held in Town. Discussion centered on whether to include neighboring towns and how to structure the event to the benefit of our local businesses and residents.

New Ideas – Bill Bowles suggested that the EDC work to get more information on the State tourism website and focus on information regarding fishing, wildlife, trails and similar attractions in the Town. He also thought that we should look at greeting packages for new residents and seasonal, decorative lighting on the Pleasant Valley Bridge, along with a historic-looking wooden sign.

At the next meeting, the EDC will prioritize 4-5 events or activities and how to divide up the work on these events in an effort to be better organized and to make progress on the Commission's mission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Stein
First Selectman