

# LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## EDC Regular Meeting Minutes

Litchfield Town Office      74 West Street      Litchfield, CT 06759

March 28, 2018      7:00 p.m.

### **Minutes (not approved)**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Cleve Fuessenich, Chair.

Present - Regular Members: Renée Betar, Elaine Fay, Cleve Fuessenich, Paula Rolleston; Alternate Members: Anne Haas, Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky, Eileen Schmidt and Bea Thompson.

Absent: Regular Members: Edgar Auchincloss, Pamela Orde and Tom Roman

Appointment of Alternates: A. Haas for T. Roman; N. MacMillan-Stedronsky for P. Orde and B. Thompson for E. Auchincloss.

Welcome to new EDC regular member, Elaine Fay.

- **Motion by P. Rolleston to approve draft minutes of February 28, 2018 regular meeting; N. MacMillan-Stedronsky seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: Jonathan Wilson: Litchfield Green retailer and entrepreneur. Observations:

- Coordination among various groups, with common goal of connecting vision, dollars and people, is a proven criteria for success. Examples include:
  - Main Street Initiative with approximately 100 businesses (with physical presence and LABA membership) geographically from Peaches and Cream/DaCapo to Guy Wolff and 95% participation in a popular print brochure.
  - Businesses and town officials: Trails, gardens, greenway group
  - Litchfield Borough, Preservation Trust and business: hanging baskets in town

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam:
  - New business: Boudoir photo
  - Soil remediation to improve Zini's parking lot
- East Litchfield:
  - New group forming: Friends of Topsmead
- Litchfield:
  - West Street Hair Design moving to The Cove.

### **Old Business**

- Litchfield EDC joint meetings with areas EDCs:
  - Joint meeting of Litchfield, Thomaston and Morris EDCs will be re-scheduled from March to late April.
  - Dialogue to include broad areas of mutual cooperation, such as railroad and lodging, relative to each town's strengths, challenges, opportunities and risks.

## LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Consider inviting Evan Dobos (Civic Lift), who recently addressed NWCOG (re: POCAD), to address joint meeting at some point to discuss platform to handle individual town sites and a cooperative site.
- Visitors' Booth on Litchfield Green:
  - N. MacMillan-Stedronsky presented two different ideas to repair and re-open the booth by this summer.
    - 1) Re-build self-service booth in current location on Green
      - Nancy consulted with Cathy Fields (Litchfield Historical Society), met with contractors, and suggested using EDC funds to help finance repairs.
      - Lee Losee (Litchfield Borough) will work on the physical design and Litchfield Historic Commission approval
    - 2) Re-use space in municipal parking lot to include parking, updated bathrooms, trash containers, Visitors' Center and access to Green. Existing structure on Green could be for an historic installation.
  - **Motion: N. MacMillan-Stedronsky moved that the Economic Development Commission request approval from the Board of Selectmen to use a maximum of \$500 of the Commission's 2017-2018 budget to help fund the potential renovation of the visitors' information booth on the Litchfield Green. The motion was seconded by P. Rolleston and unanimously approved with the condition that the exact amount of the total expense will be determined not later than April 10, 2018 by the Commission's Administrative Task Force of R. Betar, C. Fuessenich and P. Rolleston.**
- Naugatuck Greenway: No update
- Gateway to Litchfield County: Jonathan Wilson shared an update about the group of like-minded towns (re: history, agriculture, nature and small family-owned businesses) that can join together and pool resources with the common goal of strengthening the Route 202 corridor, the gateway to Litchfield County.
- 300<sup>th</sup> Litchfield Anniversary
  - LABA, Main Street Initiative and Gateway to Litchfield County can cooperate to help provide the infrastructure for 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities rather than being part of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee.
- New Business/Open for Business Task Force: E. Fay, C. Fuessenich, N. MacMillan-Stedronsky and P. Rolleston
  - Task force can be a cheerleader for those thinking about going into business as well as support for those with new businesses. EDC can put together an information packet to help move businesses forward. C. Fuessenich will introduce task force's concept at the next LABA meeting.
  - P. Rolleston will inquire about using the EDC web site to feature businesses on a rotating basis.

### **New Business**

- New ideas
  - N. MacMillan-Stedronsky shared details of a business scavenger hunt to increase traffic for town businesses.

## LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- EDC calendar of speakers for future meetings
  - Future speakers to invite include:
    - Representative from Washington Committee for Development

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by E. Schmidt; N. MacMillan-Stedronsky seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Secretary, Economic Development Commission

Cleve Fuessenich, Chair, Economic Development Commission

Mission Statement (adopted 5/17/2011)

The Economic Development Commission will stay informed on economic conditions and monitor trends within the Town of Litchfield and make recommendations to appropriate officials and agencies. The commission shall also take action to improve said economic conditions and seek to coordinate with the activities of various related commissions and unofficial organizations to further Litchfield's economic development well being.