

**Litchfield Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 28, 2015**

Heather Boesch-Wages, EDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Present

Regular members Renee Betar, Heather Boesch-Wages, Kay Carroll, Fred Colson, David Dean and Cleve Fuessenich. Absent Mitchell Fishman, Doug Parker and Alexander VandenBerg.

Guest – Jake Nadler

Appointment of Secretary

Alphabetical – Kay Carroll

Appointment of Alternates

None

Approval of Minutes

Both 8/26 and 9/30 draft minutes were proposed to be approved. Carroll first, Dean second. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Main Items

P&Z Regulation Revisions. David Dean reported on his “assignment” to find out more about the timing of revising P&Z guidelines and community reaction to them.

- The answer to “why now before POCAD”. Several issues have come up in the recent past which indicated the regulations needed some clarification prior to their review during the POCAD update. The regulations will be reviewed again during the POCAD process.
- The proposed revised guidelines for Thomaston Road area have been changed substantially. That area is a gateway to Litchfield and zoning regs there could have a significant economic impact.
- A public meeting on the proposed changes is scheduled for 11/2, 7 PM, Town Hall Annex. EDC members are encouraged to attend.

2016 Meeting Schedule – distributed (attached)

Capital Improvement Funds – Heather will submit a request for possible funds for the EDC through 2021.

Town Fairs – Warren, Cornwall and Washington have all put on “fairs” at which they have presented a profile of their town and the benefits of living/working there. To understand the response to such an event Kay will contact Washington and Cleve will contact Warren and Cornwall.

Social Media.

- Heather talked with the town re: the Town website and whether EDC could add info about EDC on it. She is waiting on a response.
- The exiting website from Leffert comes up first when searching for Litchfield, but it is no longer active or accurate. Heather will contact them re: status.
- We feel we need one location for information on Litchfield from an economic perspective so need to continue this conversation.
- Possible LABA could have the web-site. Downside is the non-Litchfield members who might want info on the site. Heather will talk with Paul McLaughlin as to whether there is a possible solution with LABA.
- Colson asked if the Town has an economic development strategy. This should dictate what we want the website to accomplish.

Economic Strategy and Plan

- The Commission needs a strategy and a plan, beyond what our mission Statement lays out in broad strokes, to identify what constitutes success for economic development in Litchfield.
- We will work independently between now and next meeting generating ideas.
- David Dean will circulate a guideline for developing a strategy and plan
- Heather will circulate the Block Island Economic Development Plan
- Betar proposed, Fuessinich 2nd that we each generate our thoughts re: possible strategies and objectives and share them with EDC members via e-mail so that we may each review prior to the next meeting. There will be NO comments on what is shared until the next EDC meeting. Passed unanimously.

Old Business – none

New Business

- Fuessinich explained that the Housing Trust is sponsoring a seminar on Energy Savings. They would like to be able to say in printed materials that it is supported by the EDC. Dean proposed, Colson 2nd to support. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn. Carroll 1st, Dean 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Carroll, Acting Secretary