

## LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Regular Meeting  
Litchfield Town Offices West Street Litchfield, CT 06759  
January 25, 2017 7:00 p.m.

### **Draft Minutes - Not approved**

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

Present- Regular Members: Renée Betar, Kay Carroll, Fred Colson (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Cleve Fuessenich, Pamela Orde and Paula Rolleston

Absent: Regular Member, David Dean and Alternate Members Anne Haas and Doug Parker

Appointment of Alternates: None

Appointment of Acting Secretary: Renée Betar

Public Comment:

- Janet Serra and Jim Whitney, Western CT Convention & Visitors Bureau:
  - Currently volunteering their time to keep Bureau functioning since June 2016 when state funding was eliminated.
  - Detailed how the lack of state funding is and will affect tourism revenue in NW CT including Litchfield.
  - Requested Litchfield EDC letter of support to CT legislature to restore funding and encouraged us all to contact our legislators to support Bill #5694.
- Myrna Watanabe:
  - Volunteered to assist EDC in providing ideas to bring agrbiotechnology-related companies to Litchfield.
  - Shared five ideas for consideration.
- Lee Losee, Warden, Borough of Litchfield:
  - Initiated discussion to gauge interest and support for town-wide summer event (as proposed by Eileen Schmidt to Borough of Litchfield and other commissions) that involves bringing visitors via railroad to E. Litchfield with shuttle to activities on Green and beyond. Suggested date in September rather than in June.
  - Initiated discussion of Litchfield's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Motion by F. Colson to approve draft minutes of November 30, 2016 regular meeting as presented; K. Carroll seconded the motion, which passed with one (1) abstention (P.**

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.

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Orde).

Motion by P. Rolleston to approve draft minutes of December 14, 2016 special meeting as presented; K. Carroll seconded motion, which passed.

Motion by P. Rolleston to approve draft minutes of December 20, 2016 special meeting as presented; F. Colson seconded motion which passed with two (2) abstentions (K. Carroll, P. Orde).

Monthly economic updates per region:

Bantam:

Update from A. Haas who could not attend meeting:]

- Resident inquired about blight officer position, currently not filled.
- Interior and exterior renovations at the Market are coming along nicely.
- Discussion at P&Z and Warden and Burgess meetings concerning the future of town-owned property (currently housing the Post Office and Town Hall Annex) after the departure of the State Court.

Litchfield:

- Jeweler on the Green plans to move business to new location on the Green in February.

East Litchfield:

- Eileen Schmidt met with O&G to discuss proposed summer event that involves E. Litchfield railroad depot

### Old Business

- POCD – no update
- Review of EDC web pages – no update  
Motion by P. Orde to table review of EDC by-laws until February meeting; motion seconded by P. Rolleston; motion passed.
- Search for new EDC members: Tom Roman expressed interested in becoming EDC member and will meet with BOS on February 4.
- Food Hub update: Received \$40K agricultural viability grant for pilot year 2017; waiting for New Opportunities involvement in project.
- 300<sup>th</sup> Litchfield Anniversary task force: P. Rolleston reiterated that the search continues for a volunteer treasurer.
- Aging of CT:  
Motion by P. Rolleston to request that Leo Paul establish an Aging task force; K. Carroll seconded the motion, which passed.

Motion by F. Colson to table Aging discussion to February meeting; P. Orde

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seconded the motion, which passed.

- Identifying business opportunities: See earlier discussions on proposed summer event.
- LABA “Welcome to Litchfield” package: EDC flyer will be included in package, which will be ready for distribution by realtors in February.
  - F. Colson will draft a document (for future addition to welcome basket) that would help explain Litchfield to a new resident and include categories such as neighborhoods, historic districts, post offices, etc.

### **New Business**

- NWCT Economic Development Summit will be held on January 30 at Litchfield Community Center. Several EDC members will attend.
- Torrington Water Company discussion on Thomaston Rd: Postponed until February meeting
- K. Carroll will invite Evan Dobos (CivicLift) to provide 30-minute demo and Q&A during public comment at February meeting.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2017.

Motion to adjourn meeting by K. Carroll; P. Rolleston seconded the motion, which passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair  
Economic Development Commission

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