

# LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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**EDC Regular Meeting  
Litchfield Town Offices  
West Street  
Litchfield, CT 06759**M35154 M35249  
**October 26, 2016 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair

Present- Regular Members: Renée Betar, Kay Carroll, Fred Colson, David Dean, Cleve Fuessenich, Pamela Orde; Alternate Members: Anne Haas  
Absent: Doug Parker

Appointment of Alternate for Doug Parker: Anne Haas

Appointment of Acting Secretary: Renée Betar

**Motion by David Dean to approve draft minutes of September 28, 2016 regular meeting;; motion seconded by Fred Colson; motion was approved.**

**Public comment:** None

## **Follow up of Public comment from September 28. 2016**

C. Fuessenich mentioned the meeting of **Myrna Watanabe** (Democratic candidate for 76<sup>th</sup> District CT House of Representatives) and **Layton Morrison** (Bantam business owner/soil biologist) might bring other interested parties together.

## **Monthly economic updates per region:**

- **Bantam:**
  - Electricals and bathroom upgrades at Switch Factory; Fire Department and building inspector have approved.
  - Sportmen's of Litchfield will be going out of business after 20 years.
  - A small building near the damn has been taken down by Eversource.
  - Town needs a sign welcoming people to Bantam and indicating where parking is available.
  
- **Litchfield:**
  - Selectman's office delayed creation of a "Greens Committee" discussed.
  - DiFranco Restaurant on the green will once again be closed during the winter.
  - Potential buyer (two men with other hotels) of Toll Gate Inn is

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experiencing bank financing issues.

- **East Litchfield:**
  - P. Orde reviewed recent activities including:
    - Clean-up effort included removal of old train car and a dumpster for removal of toxic railroad ties.
  - P. Orde also shared news of the old train station in Naugatuck is being converted to a restaurant and possibility of train to Christmas Village in Torrington.
- **Old Business**
  - Review of EDC web pages:
    - Request to announce Athletic Club's award on web page was turned down.
    - P. Rolleston will try for the recognition for the Farmer's Market Best in Class from American Farmland Trust
  - EDC Commission by-laws including attendance policy:
    - Special working meeting called for December 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. R. Betar to post agenda with one item: Special meeting for by-law work session.
  - Search for new EDC members: No update
  - Food Hub update:
    - Received \$50,000 grant from Draper Fund
    - \$400,000 grant not approved
    - Future plan is to apply for a \$90K agricultural viability grant for pilot year (60% Food Hub; 40% Agricultural Viability). If successful, then re-apply for larger grant.
    - Discussion re: New Opportunities Inc. (NOI) and Garden Fresh Farms on Field St. in Torrington
  - 300<sup>th</sup> Litchfield Anniversary task force: No news
  - Aging of CT – Business opportunities to serve the senior population:
    - Idea of Torrington Rd. senior living complex was discussed
  - Identifying business opportunities :
    - Possible opportunities include a packing/shipping business and office services.
  - POCAD:
    - Email invitation to Litchfield EDC from Rory Fitzgerald (POCAD lead consultant) to attend a POCAD focus group meeting on October 27 was received by K. Carroll on October 26 with less than 24-hour notice.
      - K. Carroll will respond to invitation with a request to see the initial meeting invitation that was allegedly

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sent earlier this month.

- Some members will try to attend October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Motion by F. Colson to authorize F. Colson, on behalf of Litchfield EDC, to write a letter to T. Waterhouse (Chair, Litchfield P&Z) expressing concern over less-than-24-hour notice informing EDC of focus group meeting on October 27. Motion seconded by K. Carroll. Vote: six approved and one did not approve. Motion carried.

**New Business** - none

Next meeting will be on November 30, 2016.

**Motion** to adjourn meeting by D. Dean; motion seconded by K. Carroll; motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair  
Economic Development Commission

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