

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Special Meeting Minutes

Administration Building White Memorial Foundation
80 Whitehall Road Litchfield, CT 06759
August 23, 2017 6:00 p.m.

Minutes (amended and approved 08-30-17)

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Cleve Fuessenich, Chair.

Present - Litchfield EDC Regular Members: Renée Betar, David Dean, Cleve Fuessenich, Anne Haas, Pamela Orde, Paula Rolleston and Tom Roman

Absent - Regular Member: Eileen Schmidt; Alternate Member: Doug Parker

Appointment of Alternates: Anne Haas for Eileen Schmidt

Guests: Morris EDC members: Ben Paletsky (Chair) and Bob Kluge; Keith Cudworth; Chris Thoma; Lee Losee; Jim Stedronsky; Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky; and Richard Van Ness

C. Fuessenich thanked Keith Cudworth for providing gathering space at White Memorial Foundation for this meeting; and Ben Paletsky for getting the two EDCs together.

Introductions: C. Fuessenich introduced all present.

One agenda item: Identify and discuss areas of mutual economic cooperation between Morris and Litchfield. Areas of mutual interest and cooperation discussed included:

1) Litchfield 300th Anniversary

a. Lee Losee:

- i. ~~Leading~~ 300th *ad hoc* committee with members Lee Losee, Steve Arduci, Cleve Fuessenich, Reggie Harrison, Eileen Schmidt and Dick Sheldon
- ii. Vision:
 1. Start with 300th Anniversary celebrations throughout the area and keep the momentum going each year thereafter. Bring tourists and enthusiasm to whole area continually.
 2. Add Revolutionary War monument to Litchfield Green; getting estimates
 3. 300th weekend in Summer 2018
 - a. Mattatuck Band concert
 - b. Trades of the era demonstrations on Green; similar to Borough Days
 - c. Fireworks
 - d. Civil War Re-enactment
 - e. Historical Society (Cathy Fields) involvement
 - i. Exhibits and themed programs
 - ii. Walking Tours with sponsor at each stop

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(e.g. painting in Union Bank)

4. Grant writers ready to start writing and securing funding
- b. Ben Paletsky:
 - i. Model celebration after other towns (e.g. Sandwich, MA, Woodbury, CT)
 - ii. Draft list of assets (open spaces and parking)
 - iii. What about fireworks?
 1. Possible venues include Litchfield soccer fields, Wamogo, Chestnut Hill, Bantam and South Farms/Laurel Ridge Farm
 - iv. Funding? No municipal funding; relying on private sector sponsorships; USDA Rural development for possible federal funding
 - v. Spoke with Morris First Selectman Weik to share preliminary thoughts
 - c. C. Fuessenich
 - i. Governors' Horse and Foot Guards
 - d. B. Kluge
 - i. Revisit past e-enactment at WMF (e.g. CT Blacksmith Assoc. and NE Blacksmith Assoc.)
 - ii. Morris Museum is a great resource.
 - iii. E. Litchfield train with revolutionary docents
 - iv. Antique Machinery (e.g. Association in Kent)
 - e. D. Dean:
 - i. Should a section of Torrington be included since it was also part of Litchfield 300 years ago? D. Dean will contact Mayor Elinor Carbone.
 - f. P. Rolleston
 - i. Get list of celebrations that took place 300 years ago and try to replicate some
 - g. A. Haas:
 - i. Medieval Feast-like event
 - ii. Involve events for all ages including children
 - iii. Use libraries as venues and for resources
 - iv. Restaurants – 300th- themed menu items and prices
 - v. Time capsule of history
 - vi. Use internet and cablevision for publicity and distribution of information
 - h. C. Thoma
 - i. When soliciting funds door-to-door, also solicit items of historic value
 - ii. Horse and carriage/wagon rides
 - i. N. MacMillian-Stedronsky:
 - i. Funding
 1. Look to commercial sources

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2. Commemorative book
 3. Map with artifacts
 4. Business and individual sponsors
- j. J. Stedronsky:
- i. Organize events around groups (e.g. realtors, restaurateurs, small businesses, etc.)
 - ii. Touch LABA at each monthly meeting for ideas
- 2) Bantam Lake**
- a. C. Fuessenich:
- i. How to maximize cooperative efforts on and around Bantam Lake?
- b. P. Rolleston:
- i. Use Lake for triathlons
 - ii. 300th Anniversary water festival (with ski club, Bantam Lake Association)
- c. R. Van Ness
- i. Villages Around Bantam Lake – tourism loop to include routes 63, 109, 209, and 202
 - ii. Tourism with a regional spin
- d. D. Dean:
- i. Bateau (flat boat) Race
- e. B. Paletsky
- i. Resource = Ann Murdica
 - ii. Expand Bantam Lake season year-round with ice boating, ice sculpture demos and contests in winter
- 3) Road Signage**
- a. C. Fuessenich
- i. Sign on Route 8 at Exit 42 – currently Topsmead is listed with room for four more destinations (e.g. Litchfield Historic District, WMF and Ripley Wildfowl Conservancy)
- 4) Marketing**
- a. B. Paletsky:
- i. target areas outside region and state (e.g. NY, Denver, Chicago)
 - ii. Model of “explorers and colonizers”

Motion to adjourn meeting by T. Roman; P. Orde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar
Economic Development Commission

LITCHFIELD 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.