

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Regular Meeting
Borough of Litchfield Office 28 Russell Street Litchfield, CT 06759
February 22, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Minutes (not approved)

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair.

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

Appointment of Alternates: Doug Parker for Pamela Orde

Appointment of Acting Secretary: Renée Betar

Public Comment:

- Evan Dobos, CivicLift presentation
 - CivicLift is a social enterprise helping communities drive their own economic growth and stimulate civic engagement.
 - Five CT communities using CivicLift: Kent, Torrington, New Milford, Tolland and New London
 - Content is submitted by organization's team and needs to be dynamic to reap benefits of the platform.
 - Fee is \$8000/yr plus one-time on-boarding fee of \$1500
 - Consider regional purchase
 - Commission will discuss at next meeting
- Myrna Watanabe:
 - Interested in keeping in touch to bring agro-biotechnology-related companies to Litchfield

Motion by K. Carroll to approve draft minutes of January 25, 2017 regular meeting as presented; F. Colson seconded the motion, which passed.

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam: no news
- Litchfield:
 - Jeweler on the green is moving to east end of West St. soon; Derwin's women's shop will move into space that jeweler will vacate.
 - Estimates indicate that the new Stop & Shop might be ready to open this summer.
 - Activity is evident at the former jail.
- East Litchfield: no news

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Old Business

- POCD – C. Fuessenich will contact Rory Fitzgerald for an update
- Review of EDC web pages – no update
- Review of EDC - by-laws
 - Suggested changes on pages 1 and 2 of by-laws were made.
 - Each month EDC will review certain by-law sections until all have been reviewed. Then the complete by-laws will be put to a vote.
- Food Hub update: Received less than 25% of funding; seeking other funding for pilot year.
- 300th Litchfield Anniversary task force: No news
- Aging of CT:
 - C. Fuessenich will invite Leo Paul to April EDC meeting to explore establishing a task force.
- Identifying business opportunities: Possibilities include:
 - Bike shop
 - Frozen yogurt shop
- Proposed summer town-wide event: C. Fuessenich is involved in discussions with Eileen Schmidt
- LABA “Welcome to Litchfield” package:
 - 30 businesses are contributing to “ New Neighbor Bags”
 - Ann Marie White (OWL) and Lesley Budney (Warner Theatre) are spearheading this LABA project
 - On behalf of EDC, F. Colson drafted a comprehensive compilation of town information to help newcomers become familiar with Litchfield. Members will review compilation and discuss next month.
 - This compilation will eventually be included in the New Neighbor Bags.

New Business

- Torrington Water Company – East Litchfield
 - D. Dean shared details of meeting with town officials, Torrington Water Company (TWC) and Aquarion Water Company (AWC) specific to Torrington Rd.
 - TWC and AWC could be vying for development funds to bring water to E. Litchfield
 - E. Litchfield property owners would have to pay for costs of getting water. E. Litchfield currently has working wells and septic.
- EDC Objectives for consideration in 2017:
 - Adopt by-laws
 - Focus on three POCAD recommendations:
 - Development of Thomaston Rd.
 - Preservation and enhancement of agriculture
 - Regulations that encourage and streamline process for the use of short-term leases to fill empty storefronts

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- Match Myrna Watanabe's investors with agri- biotech businesses in area
- C. Fuessenich presented idea of exploring a plan to have WZBG periodically stage a 10-minute interview with various local businesses. This effort could be related to celebration of Litchfield's 300th Anniversary.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017.

Motion to adjourn meeting by D. Dean; F. Colson seconded the motion, which passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Cleve Fuessenich, Acting 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.