

## LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### EDC Regular Meeting Minutes

Litchfield Town Office      74 West Street      Litchfield, CT 06759

February 28, 2018      7:00 p.m.

#### **Minutes (not approved)**

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

Present - Regular Members: Renée Betar, Cleve Fuessenich, Paula Rolleston and Tom Roman;  
Alternate Members: Anne Haas and Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky

Absent: Regular Members: Pamela Orde, Beatrice Thompson and Edgar Auchincloss; Alternate Member: Eileen Schmidt

Appointment of Alternates: Anne Haas for Eileen Schmidt; Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky for Pamela Orde

**Motion by A. Haas to approve draft minutes of January 31, 2018 regular meeting; N. MacMillan-Stedronsky seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: Elaine Fay (interested in becoming EDC member)

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam:
  - Environmental cleanup of Route 209 factory continues.
  - BluePrint CT is moving from Litchfield Green to Carriage House in Bantam; plans to open in May 2018.
  - Haus of Color has a new owner.
  - New U.S. Postmaster is working on signage and building cleanup.
  - Former Bantam gas station property is in probate.
  - Bantam Annex discussion: A. Haas pointed out that David Dean, commercial realtor and former EDC member, said at the January 2018 EDC meeting that "It's shortsighted for the town to sell the Bantam Annex". As the record of that meeting did not reflect this statement, A. Haas requested it be included in this month's minutes.
  - A. Haas counted 50 brick-and-mortar businesses in Bantam
- East Litchfield: No update
- Litchfield:
  - N. MacMillan-Stedronsky visited Andrew Goldstein and Ideal Jewelers, which moved from Waterbury to the Green. Grand Opening coming soon.
  - Discussion on how to fill vacant shops in town.
  - A coffee shop is coming to Cobble Court.

#### **Old Business**

- Litchfield EDC joint meetings with areas EDCs:
  - Joint meeting of Litchfield, Thomaston and Morris EDCs is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m. Litchfield EDC will post as Special Meeting.
  - Dialogue to include broad areas of mutual cooperation, such as railroad and lodging,

## LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

relative to each town's strengths, challenges, opportunities and risks.

- Naugatuck Greenway Update:
  - Group continues to meet with Jonathan Wilson as *de facto* leader.
  - Common recognition that the Route 202 corridor is the economic lifeline to several small towns.
- New EDC Member Guidelines/Expectation
  - P. Rolleston and C. Fuessenich will compile documents (e.g. by-laws, POCAD, etc.) for new EDC members to help orient and guide them.
- 300<sup>th</sup> Litchfield Anniversary
  - Monument group is meeting regularly and will be able to raise funds when it secures 501c3 status.

### **New Business**

- New ideas
  - N. MacMillan-Stedronsky will re-visit suggestions and actions for resurrecting the Visitors' Center on the Green.
  - R. Betar will research options to get Wi-fi on the Green.
  - "Welcome Wagon" model for new businesses.
- EDC calendar of speakers for future meetings
  - Jonathan Wilson (Derwin's) - March 2018 guest
  - Future speakers to invite include:
    - Steve Casey (Railroad Museum of NE)
    - Patricia Hearn (Litchfield Aid director and member of 300<sup>th</sup> monument group)
    - Owner of Litchfield Inn

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Secretary, 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.