

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Regular Meeting
Litchfield Town Office 74 West Street Litchfield, CT 06759
March 29, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Minutes (not approved)

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

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

Appointment of Alternates: Doug Parker for Pamela Orde; Anne Haas for Kay Carroll

Appointment of Acting Secretary: Renée Betar

Public Comment: None

Motion by F. Colson to approve draft minutes of February 22, 2017 regular meeting as presented; D. Parker seconded the motion, which passed.

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam:
 - Designers Kyra and Robertson Hartnett opened Twenty2, a new print/custom wallpaper business on 45 Bantam Lake Rd.
 - Town meeting with Leo Paul regarding the future use of Annex was well-attended.
- Litchfield:
 - Current Stop & Shop property is for lease.
 - Activity continues at the former jail.
- East Litchfield:
 - ELVIS members applied for a grant to continue East Litchfield clean-up.
 - Eileen Schmidt will continue to produce the ELVIS newsletter.

Old Business

- POCD
 - Draft plan is available for review on the Town of Litchfield website and at the Litchfield Land Use office.
 - Plan developers, Fitzgerald and Halliday Inc., will conduct a public hearing for POCD on Monday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex Gymnasium at 80 Doyle Rd in Bantam. The goal of the meeting is to review the draft document and receive feedback from the Litchfield community.
- Review of EDC web pages – no update

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Review of EDC - by-laws
 - Review and discussion of certain sections on pages 1-6. C. Fuessenich will create next draft with edits made.
 - P. Rolleston will check with Ann Combs for current list of expirations dates for EDC appointed members.
- Food Hub update: No update
- 300th Litchfield Anniversary task force: No update
- Aging of CT: No update
- Identifying business opportunities: Possibilities include:
 - Drone photography
 - Regional opportunities: C. Fuessenich to contact Ben Paletsky, Chair of Morris EDC, to arrange joint meeting with Litchfield EDC to explore regional opportunities.
- Proposed summer town-wide event: Ongoing discussions with proposed event moved to Fall.
- LABA "Welcome to Litchfield" package:
 - Discussion regarding the purpose of EDC document drafted by F. Colson. Is purpose to acquaint newcomers with town, or to offer resources to help start businesses in Litchfield? F. Colson will re-circulate the document for members to review, discuss and decide at the April meeting. Members are encouraged to share observations, provide edits, and contribute additional resources. The final document will eventually be included in the New Neighbor Bags.
- Response to Evan Dobos regarding CivicLift presentation:
 - C. Fuessenich will send note to Evan Dobos expressing EDC's appreciation for the presentation and an explanation of why Litchfield is not the right user of this software.

New Business

- CT tourism: Not much EDC can do at this point.
- Road signage
 - Small local group met to draft policy for signage of Litchfield attractions.
 - D. Parker shared that a collaborative of eight NW CT towns applied for grant to address road signage.
- P. Rolleston shared Cheshire's Market Assessment and Marketing *Plan*.
 - C. Fuessenich and D. Parker shared that a regional plan, similar to Cheshire's plan, exists.
 - Good exercise to read other towns' plans. C. Fuessenich will schedule a 20-minute discussion at April meeting.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017.

Motion to adjourn meeting by D. Dean; T. Roman seconded the motion, which passed.

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 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.