

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Regular Meeting
Litchfield Town Office 74 West Street Litchfield, CT 06759
May 31, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Minutes` (amended and approved)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair.

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

Absent - Alternate Member: Anne Haas

Appointment of Alternates: None

Appointment of Acting Secretary: Renée Betar

Public Comment: None

Motion by F. Colson to approve draft minutes of April 26, 2017 regular meeting as presented; P. **Order Orde** seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam: no update
- Litchfield:
 - Ditto's /Bohemian Pizza has been demolished. Plan to rebuild.
 - Best Western endorsed the Litchfield Inn.
 - New Stop & Shop is scheduled to open in June.
 - Main Street Revitalization committee held a meeting and is getting its feet on the ground to help improve the town's economy.
- East Litchfield:
 - Spring clean-up efforts were successful.
 - A platform is needed at the train depot.
 - ELVIS received a \$42K Scherr-Thoss grant for the chapel restoration.
 - Naugatuck Greenway plans include a path from Shelton to Waterbury with additional plans to go through E. Litchfield with connections to Torrington. Litchfield EDC will monitor the project especially for economic development opportunities along the way.

Old Business

- POCD
 - P. Rolleston and C. Fuessenich attended May 1 meeting.
 - EDC's recommendations were included in the plan that was approved by

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Litchfield BOS and passed to P&Z.

- Review of EDC web pages: **no change request to post awards and recognition was turned down**
- Review of EDC by-laws
 - C. Fuessenich asked to be put on BOS agenda to seek BOS approval of EDC by-laws, but didn't happen. The next scheduled BOS agenda included the EDC by-laws but discussion was tabled due to other pressing business. C. Fuessenich will continue to seek approval at the next BOS meeting on June 6, 2017.
- Food Hub update:
 - K, Carroll reported that the Food Hub is up and running at the Litchfield Grange with asparagus, rhubarb and tomatoes.
 - Plans to move to more permanent space in Torrington on July 1.
- 300th Litchfield Anniversary task force:
 - Task force has not met yet but Lee Losee and Lynn Brickley are planning to call and lead a meeting in the near future.
- Identifying business opportunities: Possibilities include:
 - Aging in CT: P. Rolleston drafted a brief explanation of why Litchfield needs to establish an ad hoc Task Force on Aging in CT. Members should read and send comments to Paula before next EDC meeting.
 - Phil Birkett of Litchfield Social Services has thoughts about forming a task force on aging. EDC should have a seat on this task force if/when it's established.
- Proposed summer town-wide event:
 - No movement this month.
 - Eileen Schmidt originally presented this idea. Eileen is currently seeking appointment as EDC member.
- LABA "Welcome to Litchfield" package:
 - F. Colson advanced development of EDC document, which is now in the wordsmithing stage. All EDC members should read and either send approval or tracked changes to Fred before next EDC meeting,
 - Thanks to F. Colson for all his hard work on this project. F. Colson will be moving to Massachusetts and leaving the EDC. This project needs to be handed off to EDC member (TBD) to finalize and print.
- Cheshire's Market Assessment and Marketing Plan: No update needed.

New Business

- Litchfield and Morris EDCs will meet for joint meeting to explore potential common projects and discuss challenges.
 - C. Fuessenich and Ben Paletsky, Chair of Morris EDC, will coordinate a June date for the meeting.
 - Litchfield will call a special meeting
- Per May 16, 2017 minutes of BOS meeting, "The State has notified us that they

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- will be turning the keys over to the superior courthouse building which is privately owned c/o Attorney Michael Rybak.”
- EDC will monitor related activities.
 - Elliot Wadsworth, White Flower Farm (WFF) expressed his interest to add **WWF** **WFF** as a destination if the town-wide Summer Event materializes with transportation to destinations throughout town from train in E. Litchfield depot.
 - A good topic for discussion with Morris EDC.
 - EDC June Elections:
 - Nominations received for June elections:
 - Chair: Cleve Fuessenich
 - Vice Chair: Paula Rolleston
 - Secretary: Renée Betar

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

Motion to adjourn meeting by P. Rolleston; K. Carroll seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair
Economic Development Commission

LITCHFIELD 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.