

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Regular Meeting
Litchfield Town Office 74 West Street Litchfield, CT 06759
August 30, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Present- Regular Members: Renée Betar, David Dean, Cleve Fuessenich, Pamela Orde, Tom Roman and Eileen Schmidt; Alternate Member: Anne Haas

Absent - Regular member: Paula Rolleston; Absent - Alternate Member: Doug Parker

Appointment of Alternates: Anne Haas for Paula Rolleston

Public Comment: Nancy McMillan – Stedronsky: Litchfield resident and interested potential EDC member

Motion by D. Dean to approve draft minutes of July 26, 2017 regular meeting as amended; T. Roman seconded the motion, which passed with two abstentions (R. Betar and P. Orde due to absence).

Motion by P. Orde to approve minutes of August 23, 2017 special meeting as amended; T. Roman seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention (E. Schmidt due to absence).

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam:
 - Bantam Cinema: Request to P&Z for single serve wine and beer was approved.
 - Dream House safety and blight issues to be resolved
- East Litchfield:
 - Discussion of whether graffiti equals a sign
- Litchfield:
 - Litchfield Courthouse closed on August 25; ownership has not changed yet.

Old Business

- Review of EDC web pages: no update
- Litchfield 300th Anniversary
 - Committee appointed by town; co-chairs are Lynne Brickley and Lee Losee
 - Informal group organized by Lee Losee to buy, secure and erect a Revolutionary War monument on Green.

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Business opportunities
 - Ad hoc committee - P. Rolleston (chair), T. Roman and N. MacMillan appointed to:
 - Identify economic and business ideas that are currently unmet by town;
 - Seek sources of grants to research potential opportunities; and
 - Report committee's findings to Litchfield EDC
 - Morris and Litchfield EDCs joint meeting on August 23
 - See minutes of special meeting
 - Litchfield EDC will meet with other towns, too, starting with Torrington.
 - P. Order suggested we focus first on two joints projects: (1) Railroad and (2) Thomaston Rd.
 - T. Roman suggested another focus: blight ordinance (Torrington has an ordinance; Litchfield does not.) C. Fuessenich will raise the issue of a blight ordinance with Leo Paul
 - D. Dean will contact Torrington Mayor Elinor Carbone to gauge interest and arrange joint meeting.
- Naugatuck Greenway Update
 - Naugatuck Greenway operates out of Waterbury and cooperates with NHCOG (Goshen).
 - Some sections of greenway are already in place; discussion of plan to connect unfinished and finished sections from Shelton to Winsted.
- State highway signs
 - Tangible results from *ad hoc* group: Two signs on Route 8 include Topsmead State Forest with room for four more attractions to be added (Tapping Reeve, White Memorial Foundation, White Flower Farm and Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy).
- NHCOG POCAD
 - NHCOG asked Litchfield EDC for endorsement of regional POCAD plan.
 - After discussion, C. Fuessenich will draft a response.
- Review of EDC by-laws
 - BOS reviewed by-laws and passed them to town attorney Michael Rybak for his review.
 - C. Fuessenich will circulate edited version of by-laws to all EDC members for adoption at next meeting.

New Business

- EDC calendar of speakers for future meetings
 - P. Rolleston is keeper of the speaker calendar.

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Beth Murphy, who is planning a music festival at Goshen Fairgrounds, was suggested as future speaker.
- LABA/EDC Brochure
 - Based on success of EDC booklet for LABA's welcome baskets, LABA wants to coordinate with EDC on new town brochure/business directory.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 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.