

Litchfield Economic Development Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 30, 2014

David Dean, EDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

PRESENT

Regular members Renee Betar, Kay Carroll, David Dean, Mitchell Fishman and Cleve Fuessenich were present. Regular members Alexander VandenBerg and Judy Elliott were absent. Guest Robert Graham was present.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Fishman made a motion to accept the March 2014 minutes as written, C. Fuessenich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MAIN ITEMS

- M. Fishman was congratulated on his appointment as a Regular EDC member, transitioning from his former appointment as an Alternate member.
- R. Graham sent a letter to the Board of Selectman stating his interest for appointment as an Alternate EDC member, but he has not been contacted yet by the Board of Selectmen. D. Dean and R. Graham will check on the status of this item.
- In response to public comment last month from LABA members James Stedronsky and Barbara Putnam regarding updating Planning and Zoning Home Enterprise regulations, members discussed the regulations and concluded with a motion, made by K. Carroll and seconded by M. Fishman, summarizing that D. Dean will submit a letter to LABA stating EDC support of the idea of updating and modernizing these regulations to support current and future economic development. The motion carried.

BANTAM NEWS

- The opening of Mockingbird Kitchen and Bar has been postponed until summer 2014 due to unexpected structural repairs.
- The old TNT property on Route 202 in Bantam is being renovated to house Mark Garrison Salon and a second floor yoga studio.

LITCHFIELD NEWS

- No news on Stop 'n Stop.
- The closing on the Jail property is scheduled for May 2014.
- P&Z approved conversion of the Tollgate Inn to a residential care facility for 12 –

- 18 young patients.
- Casa Bacchus is preparing to move to the former Flora and Fauna space near the post office.
- Bantam Energy consolidated two gas station/convenience store operations on Route 202 into one at Irving on the north side of Route 202.

NORTHFIELD NEWS

None

Committee Reports

Members reported on various committees.

OLD BUSINESS

- Uncertain why the Thomaston Rd. meeting did not convene.
- NWCT EDC meeting included a background conversation regarding the need for a film commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- EDC members supported scheduling a “Fundamentals of Municipal Economic Development” workshop provided free to municipalities by a CT consortium including CERC, CEDAS, CT Main Street Center and MetroHartford Alliance. However, before the workshop can be scheduled, the involvement of more public officials - totaling at least 25-30 participants - is required. D. Dean will explore further to secure more public officials.
- C. Fuessenich shared a comprehensive directory of Litchfield businesses that he compiled in 2004.
- C. Fuessenich, as a member of the 25-year old Litchfield Housing Trust, solicited the input of EDC members on our assessment of the housing needs of the community. Is the target population for the 45 affordable housing units younger families, or baby boomers downsizing, or both, or other? The discussion was thoughtful but inconclusive.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next EDC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on May 28, 2014 at the Litchfield Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Carroll made a motion to adjourn, C. Fuessenich seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission