

# LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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**Meeting Minutes (Draft)**  
**February 24, 2016**  
**Litchfield Town Offices**  
**West Street, Litchfield, CT 06759**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair.

Present- Regular Members: Renée Betar, Kay Carroll, David Dean, Cleve Fuessenich and Paula Rolleston. Fred Colson arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Absent – Regular Member: Mitchell Fishman and Sander Vandenberg and Alternate Member: Doug Parker

Appt. of Secretary – Renée Betar

Appointment of alternates for the meeting: None

Motion to approve draft minutes of January 27, 2016 was made by Kay Carroll and seconded by Renée Betar.

Public Comment - None

- Main Items
  1. Welcome to new EDC member, Paula Rolleston.
  2. Discussion of options for new EDC Chair and recruitment for EDC vacancy:
    - Cleve Fuessenich, current Vice Chair, will act as Chair until new Chair is appointed.
    - Paula Rolleston is possible Chair within the next few months.
    - Recruit new, young blood for EDC vacancy; representation from Bantam is especially needed.
  3. Discussion on POCAD:
    - Due in 2017; under auspices of P&Z
    - No readily available information about process yet
    - C. Fuessenich will check with P&Z Chair, Tom Waterhouse about plan for development and timeline, and D. Dean will speak with P&Z Alternate, Bill Conti.
  4. Zoning change: Tollgate Hill - zoning change is in the works.
  5. Litchfield Jail:
    - D. Dean shared new blueprint of recent plans.
    - No timeline was available.
  6. Regional updates:
    - Bantam
      - Mockingbird Kitchen is doing well.
      - Activity at Arethusa's third establishment on Route 202, but no real news of plan.

- Bantam Annex - Bantam Courthouse/PO Building
  - New courthouse in Torrington to open in 2017, leaving Bantam building vacant.
  - No meeting of minds on next use of building
  - Bantam's buildings committee might determine future use.
- Litchfield
  - New optometrist in the Commons
  - DiFranco Restaurant on the Green has re-opened this week.
  - Bradford House Antiques bought the former Workshop building on West St. and will move the business there from current location on the Green.

#### 7. Old Business

- No news on borough sidewalks
- No news on bike path progress
- No news on new Stop & Shop

#### 8. New Business

- K. Carroll will present innovative plan for Food Hub to NW EDC and NW Hills Council of Governments (COG) in March. Food Hub is a Litchfield County initiative to build a physical space (likely in Torrington) to serve (a) small food producers who would sell to wholesalers; and (2) producers of high-end, specialized food products demanded by chefs.
- K. Carroll shared news and flyers about a March 19<sup>th</sup> Winter Harvest Dinner at the Community Center, a fundraiser for the Litchfield Hills Farm-Fresh Market.
- C. Fuessenich encouraged members to think about practical goals for EDC to work on during 2016. Two suggestions:
  - Mechanism to help new town businesses stay in business
  - Support new information booth/bandstand on Green to promote town economic development

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 30, 2016.

Motion to adjourn by P. Rolleston; seconded by D. Dean. Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Betar, Acting Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Cleve Fuessenich, Acting Chair  
Economic Development Commission