

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Litchfield Town Offices

West Street, Litchfield, CT 06759

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by David E. Dean, Chair.

Present- Regular Members: Renee Betar, Kay Carroll, Fred Colson, David Dean, Mitchell Fishman, Cleve Fuessenich, Sander Vandenberg; Alternate Member: Doug Parker

Appt. of Secretary – Fred Colson

Appointment of alternates for the meeting: none needed.

Motion to approve draft of minutes of October 29, 2014 – by Carroll, seconded by Fishman. Approved

Public Comment-

Russell Barton – Litchfield County Jail Conversion. – Mr. Barton shared preliminary drawings and discussed the preliminary plans for the jail. Plans include creation of a coffee shop, restaurant, three retail spaces, professional office space and three residential apartments. A raised terrace would be built on the Route 202 side of the building overlooking the town green and provide outdoor seating. A parking plan will need to be worked out as the project develops and moves forward through the various approvals needed. Members asked many questions. Mr. Barton said he welcomes input from the various town commissions.

Main Items-

- Outreach to business community – Chairman Dean proposed that each member commit to visit approximately 20 businesses in town. A list of business was circulated and members selected business to visit.
- Discussion ensued on how and when contact with business owners should begin/end. Members agreed visits should occur after the New Year, likely beginning and February.
- Preliminary discussion to develop a list of questions to be asked during the visit. List of questions will be finalized at January meeting.

Monthly Economic Updates per Region

- Bantam-News
 - Work is ongoing behind the Aerospace building for some unknown project.

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.*

- The work on the distillery continues
- A discussion on the failing condition of the Dream House took place
- The new restaurant at the Bantam Inn is expected to open in January or February
- Litchfield- Tollgate Inn remains on the market
- Commercial /business Properties- changes-
 - There was no news to report about the proposed Liquor Store next to the post office
 - There was no news to report about the vacant space at 7 West Street
 - The factory building at 931 Bantam Road is now on the market.

Old Business

Bike Trail – parking is being worked on by the Selectmen and town officials

There was no news to report about the sidewalk replacement in the Boro as well as on the Stop & Shop project.

New Business – There was no new business brought before the commission.

The next meeting will be on January, 28, 2015 as there is no December meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Caroll, seconded by Fishman

Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Colson, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission

David Dean, Chairman
Economic Development Commission