

LITCHFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EDC Regular Meeting Minutes
Litchfield Town Office 74 West Street Litchfield, CT 06759
November 29, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Minutes (not approved)

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

Present - Regular Members: Renée Betar, David Dean, Cleve Fuessenich, Nancy MacMillan-Stedronsky, and Paula Rolleston; Alternate Members: Anne Haas and Eileen Schmidt

Absent – Regular Members: Pamela Orde and Tom Roman

Appointment of Alternates: A. Haas for P. Orde and E. Schmidt for T. Roman

Motion by D. Dean to approve draft minutes of October 25, 2017 regular meeting; N. MacMillan-Stedronsky, seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Jocelyn Ayer: Community and Economic Development Director, NW Hills COG recent highlights of the new POCAD for next 10 years.
 - Implementation of plan is as important as drafting the plan itself. Part 2 of plan is the “Toolbox” – samples, models and case studies related to each of the plan’s strategies. COG will build the toolbox over time, soliciting input as tools in the toolbox are being used. Quarterly review of POCAD and toolbox.
 - Working now on the ED 5-year plan with NWEDC and NW Chamber of Commerce; expected completion date is April 2018.
 - 2018 Economic Summit – January 30 at Mad River Lofts in Winsted. Mark your calendars.
 - J. Ayers will email us white paper on Air BnBs to be discussed at January 2018 Litchfield EDC meeting.
 - Would Litchfield EDC be interested in having COG assist with business visitations?
- Lee Losee: Litchfield Borough Warden
 - Discussed and solicited ideas regarding the unstaffed Information Booth on the Green including:
 - Volunteers including high schools students to help with electronic options
 - Self-service options
 - Interactive kiosk
 - Blended solution that includes print and electronic options (requires wireless on the Green)

Monthly economic updates per region:

- Bantam:
 - Sports Complex: One tenant leaving and other tenants planning to move in. Seeking handicapped access and paved parking approval.
 - Arethusa received award from Yankee Magazine for cheese.

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- East Litchfield:
 - Torrington is going forward with sewer plans that could affect adjacent E. Litchfield; Litchfield should be involved in future conversations.
- Litchfield:
 - Former jail is active with one retail store open and two more planning to open.
 - Former court house open house – 250 attended
 - Ideas expressed for possible use include town hall, a hotel and Infinity Hall-type music venue

Old Business

- Review of EDC web pages: EDC booklet is on EDC web page.
- Litchfield POCAD initiative: no update
- Litchfield 300th Anniversary:
 - No activity from committee – 10-25-17 meeting did not have a quorum
 - Other related group is actively working to fund and erect a Revolutionary War monument; dedication is scheduled for October 2019.
- Identification of business opportunities:
 - Dan Sherr (Washington), Tom Good (Kent) and C. Fuessenich met informally to discuss business corridor from New Milford to Litchfield.
- Litchfield EDC joint meetings with areas EDCs:
 - No dates have been set yet for meetings in 2018 with area EDCs.
- Naugatuck Greenway Update: C. Fuessenich attended last meeting, which focused on extent of work involved and infeasibility of plan that includes removing railroad track to make greenway.
- State highway signs
 - Approval from State for two signs (White Memorial and Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy) on Route 8 at Exit 42.
- Ad hoc task force to meet new businesses:
 - N. MacMillan noted the seasonal opening of pop-up store, Prime Finds, in Cobble Court.

New Business

- EDC calendar of speakers for future meetings
 - Suggested speakers whom P. Rolleston will coordinate include:
 - Jonathan Wilson (Derwin's) - January 2018 guest
 - Steve Casey (Railroad Museum of NE) - February 2018 guest
- 2018 EDC Calendar
 - Motion by D. Dean to accept attached EDC calendar of meetings for 2018; P. Rolleston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- New Ideas of the month:
 - E. Schmidt suggested new service to consider: hearing evaluation and aids.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

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

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Meeting adjourned at 8:50 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.