

**Litchfield Economic Development Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 27, 2014**

David Dead, EDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Present

Regular members Renee Betar, Kay Carroll, David Dean, Mitchell Fishman, Cleve Fuessenich and Alexander VandenBerg. Alternate member Doug Parker.

Appointment of Alternates

None

Approval of Minutes

Fishman proposed, Fuessenich 2nd that the minutes of the June 25, 2014 meeting be accepted as drafted. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Main Items

- **New EDC members**
 - The Board's composition limit is 7 regular members and 4 alternate members. Currently we have 6 regular members and 1 alternate, so there is room on the Board for several members.
 - Heather Boesch-Wages has indicated an interest in joining the Commission.
 - We will seek other members as well, looking for a Bantam representative.
- **The Jail acquisition completed**
 - Russ Barton has completed his negotiations with the State and his acquisition of The Jail was completed last week.
 - Fuessenich has a meeting with Barton next week to discuss possible uses of the building
 - Barton will be invited to the next EDC meeting to discuss options

Monthly Updates

- **Bantam** – The Dream House is still in limbo. The Fire Dept. has made it clear they think it is unsafe and would NOT go into the house in case of a fire.
- **Litchfield** – (1) Stop 'n Shop – still in the courts and no estimate of time frame; (2) Casa Bacchus is relocating from West Street to South Street, but there has been no activity observed in the past few weeks at the property; (3) the distillery on Bantam Road is moving forward.
- **Commercial/Business properties** – no activity vs. last report on storefronts around the Green
- **Impact of Courthouse Move** – The Courthouse construction is moving forward in Torrington. When the move was proposed, the State said the Litchfield Courthouse would be updated following completion of the new Courthouse so that it could be

used for some Court use. This would be consistent with the property usage allowed by the family who donated the property. It is unknown what that usage might be. Should EDC try to influence that usage?

Old Business

- **Thomaston Road Sewer Plant** – Leo Paul mentioned to David Dean that there is a Litchfield representative on the committee looking at Torrington sewage revamp.
- **Zoning changes** – Zoning changes will be addressed in the POCAD which is due for updating in 2017. Should we begin to look at zoning changes before that? Sense of the EDC is that we should get a jump on looking at this, but plan to enact with POCAD.

New Business

- How can EDC get better feedback from the business community as to how we can be helpful/understand their needs? Consider EDC members being “ambassadors” in the community - introducing ourselves in person and having a face-to-face conversation. Should we identify ourselves with EDC shirts? Should we attend meetings & other public gatherings as EDC rep’s.?
- Businesses interested in a community may benefit from grants, but they may not know that. Torrington has a person dedicated to providing that information to interested businesses. Litchfield has nothing in this regard. Is there a way the smaller towns could provide that information without hiring a full time grant expert? Perhaps share resource with other town(s) or organizations (e.g., senior housing).

VandenBerg proposed, Fuessenich 2nd that the meeting be adjourned . Passed.

Meeting adjourned 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Carroll, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission
David Dean, Chairman
Economic Development Commission