

Litchfield Economic Development Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 26, 2014

David Dean, EDC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

PRESENT

Regular members David Dean, Renee Betar, Kay Carroll, Cleve Fuessenich, Alexander VandenBerg and Judy Elliott were present. Alternates Mitchell Fishman and Doug Parker were present.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cleve Fuessenich made a motion to accept the January minutes as amended and the February minutes as read. David Dean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Stedronsky and Barbara Putnam came representing LABA. They are on a committee that was charged with looking at planning and zoning in Litchfield in regards to business. Families are not coming to Litchfield because there is no work here. The school population has fallen 30% in the last ten years. No home occupations allowed in borough unless they have only 1 employee and 3 parking spaces. Town population is aging and need to get young families interested in coming to town. Time to look at the regulations in town. They brought some suggestions for the EDC to review and will come to our next meeting in April. Robert Graham and Barbara Putnam attended and expressed interest in joining EDC.

MAIN ITEMS

David Dean attended the latest LABA meeting to get feedback on what the EDC can do to assist local businesses. To date he has not received any feedback.

BANTAM NEWS

None

LITCHFIELD NEWS

Haight Brown vineyard is for sale. New merchants association had informational meeting at Litchfield Inn.

NORTHFIELD NEWS

None

Committee Reports

Members reported on various committees.

LITCHFIELD HILLS FARM FRESH MARKET

Kay Carroll gave an update on the market. They have between 33-38 vendors between the winter and summer markets and a list of approximately 20 vendors on a waiting list. The market is doing well and vendors sales total about \$300,000 per year. The cost of operating the market is covered by the vendor fees. It is a well organized and efficient market according to customers and vendors alike. Local farmers have increased their ability to extend their growing seasons now that there is a winter market for their goods.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next EDC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 30th, at the Litchfield Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Kay Carroll made a motion to adjourn. Cleve Feussenich seconded it. It passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Elliott, Secretary
Economic Development Commission