

Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. **Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Chair Jack Betkoski called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Members Present: Jack Betkoski (JB), Dennis Phipps (DEP), David Pokras (DAP), Edward Mulvihill (EM), Jeremy Rodorigo (JR)

Members Absent: Brian DeGeorge (BD), Ed Korzon (EK)

Others Present: 2 members of the public

2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Motion made to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2021, meeting DAP/JR, all ayes.

Comments from the Public

None

3. **Correspondence**

JB – email received from Rebecca Mead regarding the beaconfalls.biz page and our interest in continuing the website. We need to get this site updated and running. I will give her a call. We have money in the budget for this. **Motion made to invite Rebecca Mead to attend meeting and for Chair to engage discussions with her, DAP/EM, all ayes.**

4. **Old Business**

- Beacon Falls Market – JB – discussed below in Main Street Updates.
- Berco Tank– JB - nothing to report.
- Main Street Update – JB – we have three vacant properties downtown and I have heard all sorts of things. Now I am hearing that the building owner of the pizza place wants to have another pizza place move in. JR – is Charlie open to selling the building? JB – he is just looking to lease. JR – that is a challenge. EM – the website that has the real estate that is out of date, we should put these vacancies on there. I would be happy to help with that so we can promote things. We need to work on that ASAP.
- Naugatuck Valley Regional Development Corp. – JB – again, that's the body that has Naugatuck and Waterbury and are looking to expand into the Naugatuck Valley. Tom Hyde is the Executive Director, and he was at the meeting with Haynes. They are looking into funding for the road.
- Other Updates – JB – spoke with the First Selectman and we have a total of \$46,000 in our budget and we are going to transfer \$19,000 of that into the legal line item to cover legal expenses for the data center. The data center proposed site is where the fuel cell center was going to go. This would be completed by O&G and would bring a lot of tax dollars to

the town. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that needs to be done. Gerry has brought us into the discussions. Next month I will have more information. I think this will be great for the town. DeCarlo and Doll, Yankee Gas and DOT are all involved. These kinds of things go in steps and once I have more information, I will pass it along. JR – Is there a regulatory agency that oversees it? JB – no, but they need utilities to make it happen. DAP – is this something that is private to O&G or a business that is open to the public? JB – I believe O&G will build a contract for services. DAP – what's going on with the Solar Panel project? JB – the same people doing that in Naugatuck are looking to do this on Lopus Road too. In December we had a meeting with Tom Haynes, and he discussed a proposal to do something between Seymour and Beacon Falls near Toby's Pond, similar to Quarry Walk in Oxford. Conceptionally, it was approved by our Boards. We are looking to get grant money for that project.

5. **New Business**

EDC Goals for 2022-2023 – JB – everyone thinks we should keep the budget the same. JB – more goals would be to fill vacant buildings, review Main Street development.

6. **Grant News /Update/EDC Coordinator Update**

None

7. **Payment of Bills**

JB – invoice received from Rebecca Mead Communications in the amount of \$240.00 for the Website. **Motion made to pay invoice, EM/DAP, all ayes.**

8. **Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:30 PM. /, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, EDC