

## SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 – 4:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. Present: Ward Belcher (Chairman), Robert Schaufelberger, Katherine Kiefer, Tom Shachtman, David Maffucci, Janet Graaff, Bruce McEver and Richard Block.
2. Introduction of the SEDC members.

Ward Belcher – Lakeville, born and raised, and owns a farm.

Janet Graaff – Lives in Lakeville, Board of Finance member, interested in broadband and Town grant applications.

David Maffucci – Has lived in the area about 27 years, owns Visionary Computer in Lakeville, interested in internet technology and the business interests of the entire community.

Robert Schaufelberger – Has lived here since 2014, long history in the area, owns his own business with his wife, based in Lakeville, in website design and development for companies globally, 2 children in public school here, is interested in the best technology for entrepreneurs and small businesses here.

Tom Shachtman – Writer of 40 books including some on economics, Founding Director of the Heritage Area, was on the CT Humanities Council for 6 years, has run non-profits for writers and is an occasional columnist in the Lakeville Journal.

Katherine (Kitty) Kiefer – From Lakeville, is a non-practicing attorney, former Selectman and is interested internet activity necessary for the economic community here.

Richard Block – Has been in the community for 50 years, is involved with a number of start-ups, is interested in the economic energy in Salisbury and what can be achieved.

Bruce McEver – Entrepreneur, has been in the area since the 80's, started an investment bank in New York, and loves the nature in this area and preservation of the environment. Technology makes it possible to live here and do business around the world, this is a rare and special place, take advantage of it, do more with resources here, thrive and do it in the right way. He is pleased to be on the Committee.
3. **Approval of the Agenda. So Moved** by D. Maffucci, seconded by R. Schaufelberger and unanimously **Approved**.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of December 19, 2019. So Moved** by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by D. Maffucci, with W. Belcher in favor and **Approved**. The other members did not vote as they were not in attendance at that meeting.
5. Proposed Teams
  - Broadband Team – K. Kiefer, D. Maffucci and R. Schaufelberger  
K. Kiefer is connected with the Northwest Council of Governments (NWCOG) to coordinate the various Town's broadband efforts; she will keep the SEDC updated.

- Find the Funding Team – J. Graaff, B. McEver and R. Block

W. Belcher mentioned receiving new information about the Holley Manufacturing Building (Pocketknife). J. Graaff is interested in working on private/public partnerships with the other members. She would like to know more about grant opportunities that Salisbury might be able to apply for and explore what is available. Regarding the Pocketknife building, she asked if there might be a role that the Economic Development Committee could play in moving things along. R. Block asked what the concept for the building might be. B. McEver suggested getting together with Town officials to find out how this Funding team could be effective. J. Graaff suggested that the team could meet with Curtis Rand and Joe Cleaveland, possibly in October; she will try to set it up.
- Communications Team – T. Shachtman and R. Schaufelberger

T. Shachtman spoke about having a vision, objectives to accomplish and a timeline; he suggested the date of July 4, 2026, which will be the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Some ideas include: more sidewalk traffic and no empty storefronts, top tier internet connectivity for businesses and residents, more businesses that are serving a diverse population geographically, stress the quality of life here, have a more formal business incubator and understand and support middle-class housing needs. He will send a memo to the Committee.

R. Block asked about the ranking of the local schools which could be used as an attraction.

T. Shachtman mentioned that a decentralized workforce can contribute to the community.
- Living Where Your Work Team – W. Belcher and K. Kiefer

W. Belcher will be meeting with Curtis Rand, regarding the Pope property. There will be further discussion.
- Lime Rock Team – R. Block and D. Maffucci

D. Maffucci spoke about a recent Planning & Zoning Commission meeting at which the new management team of Lime Rock Park (LRP) spoke about upcoming projects and suggested that LRP is an economic driver.

R. Block agreed with D. Maffucci and suggested that the new LRP people want to work with the community and not challenge the Sunday racing ban. He asked the Committee if someone from LRP should be included on this Committee; K. Kiefer was in favor.

B. McEver asked if others from major employers, such as the schools, should also be included. W. Belcher responded that this SEDC is the right size as it is; the small teams should reach out and bring information back to the monthly meetings. He added that he is not in favor of adding someone from LRP to this Committee.

B. McEver wondered if they (LRP) might have different interests from the SEDC.

T. Shachtman suggested that a large employer like the Hotchkiss School may not have the same objectives as the Town; it's more likely that LRP might be more aligned.

R. Block expressed his support for having someone from LRP on this Committee.

W. Belcher indicated that R. Block and D. Maffucci could stay in touch with LRP and the neighborhood; he doesn't want the SEDC to be too much focused on one situation.

J. Graaff suggested that the SEDC is modest in its scope and mission as an advisory Committee to the Selectmen, more of a communication channel; ideas are important. She hopes that there will be organized reports from the various teams at the meetings.

K. Kiefer asked if any of the owners of LRP are residents of Salisbury; she suggested perhaps having a preliminary meeting with them.

D. Maffucci mentioned that one of the new owners may be here full time and on the Board of the Salisbury School.

W. Belcher indicated that this discussion would continue and be on the agenda of the October 21, 2021 meeting.

K. Kiefer asked for a discussion of events to be on the next agenda.

6. Public Comment – None

7. W. Belcher concluded the meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 4:00pm.