

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 – 4:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

- Call to Order. Present: Ward Belcher, Kitty Kiefer, Robert Schaufelberger and Janet Graaff.
Absent: Richard Block, Tom Shachtman, Bruce McEver and David Maffucci.
A voting quorum was not present.
- Minutes of October 21, 2021. (The Minutes were not voted on at this meeting.) J. Graaff requested the following amendments to the minutes:
Under Funding/Financing Team – ...possible available grant funding. “J. Graaff mentioned she’d learned from Curtis Rand that the Town would have to fully own a property in order for the Town to qualify for State clean-up funds, so the Town would not be able to help out prospective buyers with grant funds.” Pocketknife Square....
Under New State Regulations -- J. Graaff suggested “that all Committee members read up on the legislation so that the Committee could discuss at a future date” and perhaps “write a” letter of recommendation....
Under Feedback from Recent Selectmen and Board of Finance Meetings – J. Graaff “presented the Board of Selectmen list of suggestions for use of” the first half....
- 2022 Meeting Schedule. The Committee discussed having a new time and day for meetings in 2022. The SEDC will meet monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm, as follows:

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – 5:30pm	February 16
March 16	April 20
May 18	June 15
July 20	August 17
September 21	October 19
November 16	December 14

The Committee also re-scheduled the next meeting from December 16, 2021 at 4:00pm to Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 5:30pm.

- Team Reports and Discussion
 - Funding/Financing – Brief general discussion; it was mentioned that the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), currently being updated, may be helpful.
 - Broadband Team – K. Kiefer gave an update. She is no longer working with the NW Hills COG (Council of Governments). The Broadband Team had one brief session to discuss a

proposal by a well-funded entity to possibly fund a new regional fiber optic network. K. Kiefer, W. Belcher and J. Graaff will be attending a CT Economic Development Convention on December 2, 2021. K. Kiefer is particularly interested in the broadband/fiber optic issue and perhaps working with the Town of Sharon group. R. Schaufelberger noted the importance of getting the towns aligned and recognizing the difference in costs. He added that Comcast may be building out its existing network; that could make it difficult for a new fiber optic network to be viable. K. Kiefer noted that the issue should be getting Comcast to switch to a fiber optic network here.

- Town Association Team – No report now
 - Business Promotion Team – No report now
 - Living Where You Work Team – W. Belcher will talk to Jocelyn Ayer and David Rich in the future about property development for housing.
 - Lime Rock Team – There was a brief general discussion about SEDC contact with the new management there. W. Belcher is interested in the economic impact of the track.
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- New State Regulations: Discuss implications for economic development with a view to participating in ongoing P&Z process.
 - Accessory Housing (attached and detached)
R. Schaufelberger expressed seeing both sides of the argument to opt-in or opt-out of the State Accessory Housing regulations. K. Kiefer noted that Salisbury already has a sewer system in place, which some other nearby towns don't have. W. Belcher agreed with R. Schaufelberger. J. Graaff expressed that the Planning & Zoning recommendation to opt-out might be because they already have a better set of guidelines in place. W. Belcher offered that long-term affordable rental housing is the key issue; accessory apartments are secondary to that. The Committee will wait to see how things develop.
 - Outdoor Dining
J. Graaff expressed her view that the SEDC take a position which supports economic development. K. Kiefer observed that big events that draw people here are helpful to local retailers. J. Graaff noted the popularity of restaurants here and that outdoor dining should be supported. W. Belcher offered that there will be further discussion at another meeting.
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- State-required 10-Year Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD): discuss how SEDC will contribute to study and report.
P&Z lead and funding /SEDC role -- J. Graaff described the process that the PZC is going through to update the POCD; there may be a workshop to get input from other Commissions and Committees. A representative from the SEDC would present the "vision" for the Town that the SEDC agrees upon and will be working towards. W. Belcher expressed that he would like T. Shachtman to work on the "vision" project; J. Graaff may work on it also. W. Belcher would like

to have more discussion on what direction that project will take. R. Schaufelberger pointed out that the younger viewpoint includes lots of involvement with the schools.

- Proposal for Community Outreach and Discussion — R. Schaufelberger suggested sending out an email blast a week or so before the monthly meetings to make people aware and get on their calendars; it could include a brief message, an invitation for comment and there could be a link to the agenda that's posted on the Town website. The purpose would be to get more people informed, involved and to get more opinions from the public. The Committee will review the email and make suggestions before it goes out.

(J. Graaff asked W. Belcher to take an email vote of the SEDC members to confirm that she would be the SEDC representative to work with the PZC on the POCD.)

- Feedback from Recent Selectmen and Board of Finance Meetings.
According to J. Graaff, there is nothing new to report, at this time.
- New Business: Event(s) inviting community participation.
K. Kiefer suggested having an event at the Town Grove; this will be an item for discussion at another meeting. She will write up a short description for the members.
- J. Graaff offered to work on a slightly different format for the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 5:30pm.