

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2021 – 5:30PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. Present: Kitty Kiefer, Tom Shachtman, Robert Schaufelberger, Janet Graaff, David Maffucci, Bruce McEver and Ward Belcher. Absent: Richard Block (J. Graaff mentioned that R. Block may be taking a leave of absence from the Commission)
2. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved.**
3. **Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2021 and November 18, 2021.** J. Graaff suggested that Minutes have the notation “Draft Minutes, pending approval.” She suggested the following changes to the Minutes of November 18, 2021: FROM: Funding/Financing – Brief general discussion; it was mentioned that the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), currently being updated, may be helpful. TO: Funding/Financing – Janet mentioned that the Committee will have a clearer idea about economic development funding/financing needs after the Town’s 10-year Plan has been updated, so for the moment, this team might as well be in abeyance. FROM: 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. TO: J. Graaff offered that long-term affordable rental housing is the key issue; accessory apartments are secondary to that, and she approves of the position PZC has taken. She recommended, should members agree, that the Committee makes its support of PZC’s position known to the Selectmen and PZC. W. Belcher suggested revisiting this topic at a subsequent meeting. FROM: (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.) TO: J. Graaff asked W. Belcher to take an email vote of the SEDC members over the next week to confirm that she would be the SEDC representative to work with the PZC on the POCD, and he agreed to do so. A **Motion to Approve the Minutes of October 21, 2021 and November 18, 2021, as amended**, was made by J. Graaff, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved.**
4. **Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule (Third Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm). So Moved** by T. Shachtman, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved.**
5. Annual Election of Office Holders for upcoming period (Dec. ’21 – Nov. ’22). There were 2 nominations: Ward Belcher, Chairman, and Janet Graaff, Vice- Chairman. A **Motion to Elect Ward Belcher, Chairman, and Janet Graaff, Vice-Chairman**, was made by T. Shachtman, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved.**

Draft Minutes, pending approval.

6. Elect PZC Liaison. A **Motion to Elect Janet Graaff as SEDC liaison to the PZC** was made by T. Shachtman, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved**.
7. Committee Decision Making (W. Belcher) – There was a brief discussion about different ways to reach decisions, such as by acclamation, instead of Motions and Votes. No changes were made to the process, at this time.
8. Committee Communications (R. Schaufelberger) – There was discussion about trying to get more people on the SEDC mailing list and getting more attendance at the meetings. There was a suggestion for Committee members to reach out individually, to get people to opt-in to the SEDC mailing list. It was also suggested to have a sign-up form on the Town website which could go directly to the SEDC mailing list, if people want to opt-in. There was another suggestion about getting a mention in the Lakeville Journal, directing people to the SEDC page on the Town website. Getting the SEDC mailing list link included in the Town’s own newsletter was suggested, also.
9. Broadband Team (K. Kiefer and D. Maffucci) – K. Kiefer began with information about how a committee of citizens in Sharon, called Sharon Connect, is working on high speed internet access opportunities there. One approach is with Comcast; Comcast has applied for a Federal grant to expand their current service; more will be known in January. It was noted that some of the Federal mapping that is relied on may not be as accurate as the mapping the Town of Sharon has done. It was suggested that Salisbury could also have a group of interested citizens organized like the one in Sharon, to educate themselves and inform the public. D. Maffucci continued with information about NW Connect, an organization which works on behalf of many towns to promote a regional fiber-optic network; there may be more public information available about a more affordable proposal in January. Public comment and participation is welcomed by the SEDC. The Committee would like to find out how many people in Salisbury still have no internet service, what type of service others have and what they would like to have.
10. Developing an Economic Development Vision and Implementation for the Town of Salisbury, working off of 2017-2027 CEDS, 2012-2022 POCD and NWCOG Local EDC Best Practices (R. Schaufelberger, T. Shachtman and J. Graaff) -- J. Graaff referred to the on-going work by the PZC on the 2012-2022 update and the opportunity for the SEDC to provide input about the vision for the next 10 years. There is a working document (attached to these Minutes) that the SEDC members have, for their review and input. Long-term sustainability could be another topic for discussion. T. Shachtman continued the discussion; short-term goals and the reasons why they are included as part of the working document. The NWCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development was noted as an important resource for the SEDC.

11. Consideration of Public Comment – The Committee would like any people who are interested to get more involved with the process over the next few months. To sign up for the SEDC newsletter, go to: <https://www.salisburyct.us/salisbury-economic-development-committee/>
12. Actions and Assignments – Will be continued as the teams are working on them. Ideas discussed included: a piece in the Town newsletter, articles for the Lakeville Journal and posting on the Salisbury Facebook page.
13. Public Comment – There was a brief comment about broadband connection regarding coverage, speed and lower prices. The speaker, Eric Mason, commented that his current internet service was OK and would not want to pay more for a fiber connection for personal use.
14. Adjournment. W. Belcher closed the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.