

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2022 – 5:30PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. Present: Ward Belcher, Robert Schaufelberger, Kitty Kiefer, Tom Shachtman and Bruce McEver. Absent: Janet Graaff, David Maffucci and Richard Block.
2. Approval of the Agenda – all in favor.
3. Approval of the Minutes of January 19, 2022. Tabled to the next meeting.
4. Regional and Local High Speed Internet Developments.

R. Schaufelberger gave a recap of a recent virtual meeting of the CT Council of Municipalities; Crown Castle was part of the discussion. He summarized that Crown Castle is not interested in being the one company that provides internet service to the home; they would like to provide internet service to medium to large municipalities or school systems. R. Schaufelberger indicated that Crown Castle could be one piece of the puzzle, but other options need to be considered to bring fiber infrastructure to homes; they could potentially provide service to an institutional customer such as Salisbury Central School. K. Kiefer indicated that there was no update from NWConnect at this time. She emphasized that accessibility is the key issue to achieve, not just affordability, and is still hoping for competition to provide the impetus for change. W. Belcher recognized John Brett (a resident of Sharon, concerned regional citizen and member of Sharon Connect) who spoke about the possibility of Google Fiber providing fiber service to customers in Sharon. While he is hoping for a regional approach, he suggested the “do it yourself” approach and to get a survey of interest done. W. Belcher pointed out that all towns in the NWCOG would have to approve paying 50% of the cost to bring the service in. K. Kiefer suggested that the point of a survey is to get the public to think about the internet service they have and want. She has the survey that was done in Sharon and will send it, along with an article about North Canaan, to the SEDC members for comments.
5. POCD Survey.

T. Shachtman commented about the questions asked in the survey and the length of it; but it will bring in some very good information if there a lot of responses. R. Schaufelberger pointed out that there was a broken link at the end of the survey for volunteering. He added that the next SEDC email should support the survey and urge participation. The POCD survey can be found on the Town of Salisbury website: <https://www.salisburyct.us/>. T. Shachtman noted that the survey is about communicating choices about what is possible.

6. Committee Communications and Outreach – R. Schaufelberger commented that no email went out about tonight’s meeting; he would like to get the agenda out earlier in the future.
7. Public Comment – None.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was closed by W. Belcher at 6:07pm.