

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2022 – 5:30 PM (VIA ZOOM)

Call to Order. Present: Ward Belcher, Robert Schaufelberger, Kitty Kiefer, Tom Shachtman, and Janet Graaff. Absent: Bruce McEver and Richard Block

**Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by R. Schaufelberger and unanimously **Approved.**

**Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2022. So Moved** by T. Shachtman, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved.**

1. EV Charging Stations update – R. Schaufelberger gave a brief update; the proposal from Artis Energy Solutions has been sent out for review. Gene Bloxsom, Artis Energy, clarified the proposal, describing the possibilities and incentives for each charging station. He indicated that 4 sites were looked at with cost proposals; all come with software. J. Graaff asked about the details of payments; Mr. Bloxsom indicated that they go to a designated bank account. He went on to describe the costs and charges of different producers; 2 of them have good records and are recommended, including the largest, ChargePoint. The SEDC had questions including: maintenance, the time frame, education of the public, the location of other free EV stations, the reliability of the products and records of service. J. Graaff would like to see the information each supplier provides, regarding usage; since the Town would pay Eversource, she wants monitoring reports. Regarding separate meters, Mr. Bloxsom indicated that it is not necessary, as the software takes care of reporting energy used. W. Belcher asked if there would be an expense to the Town; R. Schaufelberger answered yes, the EV stations are not fully covered by the incentives. There were further questions about when start-up costs would be recouped and on-going maintenance costs per month; Mr. Bloxsom indicated that these are 5 year plans. He added that Artis Energy Solutions gets paid for organizing the Eversource subsidy; the Town would pay up-front, and then apply for the subsidies. W. Belcher and J. Graaff indicated that there is support for this project; she wants more specific information, regarding the software, the role of the Town and costs. Mr. Bloxsom suggested that there are benefits to having the EV stations in Town and suggested reserving the incentives from Eversource soon, as they could be different in 2023.
2. High Speed Internet – update on Town of Sharon. K. Kiefer reported on the recent Sharon Town Meeting, at which time the voters approved the proposal from Comcast to expand the existing cable service. She pointed out that the expanded service would be cable, not fiber and that Salisbury could be better off for waiting. W. Belcher added that proposals from Frontier and Crown Castle could be more expensive to the Town. J. Graaff suggested that First Selectman

Curtis Rand and the NWCOG may have some solutions; K. Kiefer will speak to Mr. Rand. R. Schaufelberger noted that Frontier might install fiber which might trigger competition with Comcast. W. Belcher commented that consumer prices are too high.

3. Preliminary discussion on resourcing appropriate economic development and possible further discussion on resourcing other public projects.  
T. Shachtman commented that there is not a commitment to business and street traffic is down. He suggested there should be someone promoting foot traffic and advocating for commercial business interests, especially for commercial applications to the Planning & Zoning Commission. J. Graaff pointed out that the Town budget covers operating needs and expenses; also there is a “rainy day” fund. T. Shachtman would like to have a designated business solicitor/marketing person and budgeting for that function.
4. SEDC 2023 membership recommendations to the Selectmen. W. Belcher and J. Graaff have some people in mind; T. Shachtman suggested that this be addressed at the December meeting. J. Graaff would like to suggest Carol Sadlon; she would like someone in real estate also.
5. Other pertinent business – 2023 Meeting Dates. After discussion, the Committee agreed to continue meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm. J. Graaff would like to have hybrid meetings, when possible.
6. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.