

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 14, 2022 – 6:30PM (VIA ZOOM)

Call to Order. Present: Ward Belcher, Tom Shachtman and Janet Graaff. Kitty Kiefer arrived at 5:47pm.  
Absent: Robert Schaufelberger and Bruce McEver.

Discussion: The SEDC would like to have more members. W. Belcher indicated he will stay on as a member, but not as Chair; J. Graaff is willing to step up. J. Graaff indicated that she would like to have Carol Sadlon on the SEDC; recommendations will go to the Board of Selectmen. The possibility of having Advisory SEDC members was also briefly discussed.

**Approval of the Agenda. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by T. Shachtman and unanimously **Approved.**

**Approval of the Minutes of November 16, 2022.** J. Graaff asked for a rewrite of the Minutes. She pointed out that Richard Block had resigned from the SEDC. She asked that Point #3 be rewritten, using her words, in its entirety, as follows: “T. Shachtman would like to see a deeper Town commitment to commercial development. To prompt discussion of possible administrative/organizational solutions, he introduced several ideas for discussion: the Town could decide to have a modest economic development budget; to staff an office part-time; to have an elected Commercial Business Advocate; or to assign such responsibility to one of the Selectmen. He added that PZC could designate one of its members as an Applicant Advocate. The committee took this as food for thought, to be brought up again at a future meeting. On the topic of a “rainy day” fund, J. Graaff indicated she was aware that the Town has a reasonable amount (several million) set aside to serve this need.” **A Motion to Approve the Minutes of November 16, 2022, as amended,** was made by T. Shachtman, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved.**

1. EV Charging Stations Update (Schaufelberger)

J. Graaff gave an update, indicating that the Town is interested in 2 or 3 stations, not 4. The proposals received were reviewed; the Library lot is good, the other station needs to be in Lakeville, probably at the Town Grove. She noted that Curtis Rand has signed off on those 2 contracts, but more paperwork needs to be done for Eversource, as Eversource is providing the incentive funding.

2. PZC liaison update (Graaff)

J. Graaff talked about the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) update and survey; the need for pro-commercial development; and special planning meetings to review/revise

regulations. Pertaining to economic development issues, she noted that the dates of the planning meetings will be January 30, February 6, March 6, 2023 at 5:30pm. and April 3, May 1, June 5, 2023 at 6:30pm. K. Kiefer and W. Belcher indicated that they are interested and would like to be involved. T. Shachtman suggested that the SEDC should have more input, regarding P&Z regulations. He also suggested having a PZC member who is pro-business and development, designated to work with applicants; W. Belcher agreed.

3. Further SEDC membership recommendations (Belcher)

W. Belcher expressed feeling positive about the SEDC; so it's time to add new members. He has decided to step back as Chair. A **Motion to Nominate J. Graaff for Chair and R. Schaufelberger for Vice-Chair** was made by W. Belcher and seconded by K. Kiefer; there was discussion, but **no vote**. A **Motion to Recommend to the Board of Selectmen to Appoint Carol Sadlon and Adam Higgins as SEDC Members**, was made by J. Graaff, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved**. T. Shachtman suggested an agenda item, proposing 2 more members at the next meeting. W. Belcher would like to invite Carolyn Piccirelli, owner of Honeychurch Home in Salisbury; T. Shachtman suggested inviting her to SEDC meetings. J. Graaff suggested having 2-year terms, staggered, on the SEDC; K. Kiefer asked for that discussion to be tabled to 2023.

4. SEDC Office Holder and Member review with preliminary discussion about election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023 (Belcher).

J. Graaff would like to wait until January, 2023 and have a larger group vote on this subject; K. Kiefer **Withdrew the Motion to Approve** J. Graaff and R. Schaufelberger as new officers.

5. Further discussion on resourcing commercial and economic development (Shachtman).

T. Shachtman suggested having more focus at the government level, such as having one of the Selectmen specifically as a commercial business advocate. He added that the SEDC should work with that person; get an appropriate budget item next year; and in an election cycle, have an elected official to advocate for commercial/retail interests. Other suggestions included events coordination and publicizing, in order to attract more people to town. J. Graaff suggested having a budget in January for 2023; that will be on the agenda.

6. Other pertinent business

K. Kiefer mentioned that she had attended a recent meeting with the Colliers Consulting Group, working on the project for the Village of Lakeville, regarding the RFP/Rail Trail Use, etc.; she will email the SEDC members.

The meeting concluded at 6:48pm.

The next meeting is January 18, 2023.

