

## SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 9, 2023 – 5:30PM (VIA ZOOM)

Present: Janet Graaff, Kitty Kiefer, Robert Schaufelberger, Tom Shachtman, Ward Belcher and Carol Sadlon. Absent: Bruce McEver.

#### 1. SEDC Discussion of POCD Chapter 3 Preliminary Draft

R. Schaufelberger (Acting Chair) began the discussion of Section 3: Vibrant Villages, including Inventory; Assessment; and Strategy. The SEDC focus is on the substantive issues in the draft. Comments included:

##### **Inventory**

##### 1) Comprehensive Zoning Plan

- Recommending to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that an actual inventory and assessment of town businesses be done
- Introduce the high speed internet topic
- Add the kind of retail that exists to the inventory
- Elaborate on positive activities that are happening, particularly in Salisbury
- Emphasize improving access to communications infrastructure (and fiber network)
- Creation of public spaces / gathering places
- Weigh in on the parking issues in Salisbury
- Highlight the need for adjustments to zoning, possibly with other examples

##### 2) Housing

- More information is needed, in order to respond appropriately

##### 3) Built Infrastructure

- Recommend separate section for communications infrastructure
- Add a specific reference to parking in this section

##### 4) Green Infrastructure

- No comments at this time

##### 5) Amenities

- Include specific reference to include restaurants (as noted)

##### **Assessment**

- Referring to utility wires being buried underground, it is “desirable”
- Need clarification of Lines 128 – 137
- Want further discussion of commercial development diversifying the tax base
- Would like more information on possible tax relief programs
- Look at using diverse tax base to stimulate development ideas

## **Strategies**

- Encourage flexibility; look for positives; make recommendations
- SEDC should do more; offer lots of suggestions regarding specific sites, such as providing amenities
- Have a big vision; see how individual properties fit in
- Planning on an on-going basis, including PZC and Land Use
- SEDC official function; consider options; become more focused; ask for resources
- Consider recommending having an Economic Development Director, part-time
- Define additional needs, such as a person to execute identified projects
- SEDC should continue to implement projects; develop brand identity for town

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting May 17, 2023 at 5:30pm.