

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 17, 2023 – 5:30PM (VIA ZOOM)

Present: Robert Schaufelberger (Acting Chair), Janet Graaff, Tom Shachtman, Ward Belcher, Kitty Kiefer, Carl Sadlon and Bruce McEver.

1. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by J. Graaff and unanimously **Approved**.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of April 19, 2023. So Moved** by T. Shachtman, seconded by W. Belcher and **Approved with one abstention** – J. Graaff did not attend the meeting.
3. POCD Draft presentation & discussion with Michael Klemens and Abby Conroy.
 - Each chapter of the POCD has goals and strategies; strategies include plan implementation. Regarding spending, CGS Section 8-24 requires that municipal improvements be referred to the PZC before local action is taken. If something is not in the POCD, the PZC must determine if it is a good use of municipal funds. For example, things like the new transfer station and the purchase of the Pope property came after the 2012 POCD and had to go to a Town vote. Not all recommendations are included in the POCD.
 - The POCD could be updated more frequently and is an “under-used” document, but is becoming more important for funding opportunities. This POCD will contain a recommendation for an annual review.

Vibrant Villages (Chapter pertaining to the SEDC)

- SEDC comments and questions have been incorporated into the document.
- There are different ways of looking at economic development and what is needed:
 - Offer more choices in town for shopping
 - Public spaces that aren't religious
 - Town green for large events
 - Improve acoustics at the Town Grove
 - Improvements at Salisbury Central School
 - Use SWSA field for large community events
 - Look at zoning conflicts between residential and commercial uses; stop allowing residential use in commercial zones going forward, except existing non-conforming uses
 - Support a variety of retail that meets different needs; get people to spend money in the community and not drive elsewhere to shop

- Consider tax abatements, other tax structures and incentives to attract and support commercial business
 - Relax zoning restrictions
 - Consider municipal parking lots
- R. Schaufelberger would like EV Charging Stations mentioned in the POCD; there will be further discussion of necessary requirements.
 - Several strategies were discussed, including:
 - Developing a Town “brand” and ways to use it as an economic driver
 - Looking at other public amenities, such as restrooms
 - Considering SEDC status as a Commission, with land use office assistance; this would require an Ordinance and Town vote.
4. Project and Portfolio Updates – Tabled
5. Public Comment – None
6. Correspondence – Tabled
7. Other Business – Tabled

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by R. Schaufelberger at 7:32pm.