

## SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 21, 2023 – 5:30PM (HYBRID)

Present: Janet Graaff, Kitty Kiefer, Robert Schaufelberger, Ward Belcher and Bruce McEver.

Absent: Tom Shachtman and Carol Sadlon

1. Approval of Agenda. J. Graaff requested that under Item 4, the last line should read “...the discussion will include listing the pros and cons of committee versus commission structure, as outlined in the 2012 POCD.” J. Graaff pointed out that the 2012 POCD included a recommendation for the SEDC to become a Commission; the current POCD update is now in draft form. Others commented on the usefulness and intent of the POCD, in general.
2. Amendment and approval of previous meeting minutes. J. Graaff wants the minutes to refer people to listen the Zoom recordings. She also wants to prepare “executive summaries” as separate documents, to go along with the minutes. A **Motion to Table approval of the previous meeting minutes** was made by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by K. Kiefer and **Approved**.
3. Project and Portfolio Status Reports – Discussed later in the meeting, after Item 4.
4. Round-table discussion of work focus for the Committee over the next 12-18 months and the kinds of resources necessary to accomplish objectives. Since structure and status can make a difference to resources and thus outcome, the discussion will include listing the pros and cons of committee versus commission structure, as outlined in the 2012 POCD.  
There was a lengthy discussion about the future of the SEDC; the recording can be found at: <https://www.salisburyct.us/salisbury-economic-development-committee/>  
K. Kiefer mentioned that C. Sadlon wants to have structure, direction and a goal for her project. K. Kiefer indicated that she will continue to work on and update on fiber/internet connectivity. She will also work on getting Salisbury to become an Appalachian Trail town; she will give her ideas to the Pathways Committee. W. Belcher commented that in the past, SEDC members may have had a person in the community to partner with them on a project. He is interested in focusing on the Marketplace of Salisbury (working with Alice Yoakum); developing economic development zones; and finding ways to use the tax base. J. Graaff is interested in the topic of tax abatement, as a tool for economic development, to create a business-friendly environment; she has spoken with the land use department and the tax assessor. K. Kiefer mentioned that they must be aware of historic district considerations, also. B. McEver indicated that he would like to work on the extension of the rail trail between Salisbury and Canaan; he wants to meet with people and talk about it. R. Schaufelberger will continue to work on EV charging stations; he has some interest in the focus on the Appalachian Trail town official recognition, also.

There was discussion on the pros and cons of the SEDC being a Committee versus a Commission. B. McEver commented that he is okay with the SEDC, as it is. R. Schaufelberger suggested that with a modest budget to do small projects, he is okay with the SEDC as it is. J. Graaff noted that the SEDC can put together proposals, with expenses, and take them to the BOS for approval. R. Schaufelberger mentioned that there will be an EV charger at the Grove; it was just approved. K. Kiefer will talk to Jim Dresser about the Salisbury Affordable Housing Commission and their annual budget, to find out more about that. J. Graaff talked about having a day-to-day resource person with expertise, within town hall staff, to be a “point person” for the SEDC. W. Belcher commented that the town wouldn’t be interested in big development; J. Graaff suggested it should be friendly to business. K. Kiefer observed there was no consensus on this subject tonight. There were a few other brief comments and the discussion concluded.

#### Projects and Portfolio Status Reports:

EV charger stations – R. Schaufelberger reported that the contract has been signed for the EV charger station at the paddleball courts at the Grove. He has volunteered to manage the software, to help move the project along; there is no timing on the installation yet. The Library has several concerns about an installation there. The EV charger at the Grove should be compliant with ADA requirements, which is a concern of the PZC. That experience should help take the project further.

Frontier fiber installation – K. Kiefer that Frontier is wiring around various areas of town. Allison Ellis, Frontier rep, will be attending the next meeting in July.

J. Graaff mentioned that C. Sadlon will have an update on the downtown Salisbury improvement project at the next meeting.

5. Public Comment – None
6. Correspondence – 1) A note from Curtis Rand to the SEDC, regarding signing the EV contract. 2) A letter from Michael Klemens, regarding attending this meeting. 3) A letter from Abby Conroy explaining why M. Klemens would not be able to attend this meeting. Copies will be filed with the Town Clerk.
7. Other Business, including a review of the meeting calendar.  
A **Motion to Cancel the August 16, 2023 Meeting** was made by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by B. McEver and unanimously **Approved**.
8. **Adjournment. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by R. Schaufelberger and unanimously **Approved**.