

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 19, 2023 – 5:30PM (HYBRID)

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

1. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by R. Schaufelberger and unanimously **Approved.**
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Tabled until later in the meeting.
3. Frontier fiber installation Status Report (Kiefer and guest Allison Ellis, Frontier VP, Regulatory Affairs) K. Kiefer asked Ms. Ellis for guidance on how to sell universal coverage to this town and others. Ms. Ellis had no details about Salisbury, but noted that Frontier will be deploying fiber through 2024; it is on-going. She talked about the State still having a lot of money for broadband programs, but no recent progress. She added that the State has been recently allocated \$144million; initial proposals are due by 12/31/2023. She encourages having interaction with the broadband office in Hartford. She suggested that it is good to have a public/private partner process, especially with community contribution, which could include creative ways other than money. T. Shachtman had questions about town involvement, public partners and how to figure out who is underserved. Ms. Ellis indicated there is a FCC Broadband map for addresses of underserved; the intent is to have service available with federal money. She is hoping that Salisbury will eventually have fiber, but it needs more work. W. Belcher would like to get closer to the Broadband office in Hartford; Ms. Ellis will provide the name of the person to contact and the map information.
4. Marketplace Courtyard Status Report (Sadlon)  
C. Sadlon reported that she has been speaking to the neighbors around the courtyard about making a vital space for gatherings and other uses. The resources are being considered, including the pavement, lighting, drainage, seating and more. Talks have been positive, so far and it will take time; there is no deadline. T. Shachtman asked who will pay for the project; C. Sadlon suggested it would be public and private; it needs to be designed and have a budget. J. Graaff mentioned that there are façade grants from the CT Main Street resource. K. Kiefer suggested that it was premature for funding; a detailed plan is needed first. C. Sadlon indicated a coordinator is needed to keep a calendar.

5. EV charger stations Status Report (Schaufelberger)

R. Schaufelberger had a brief report. He has asked Artis Energy about the type of charging stations that they would be using, since more carmakers are adopting the Tesla port standard, what the plan is for getting the most popular connector. The Artis contact person will check with the manufacturer to find out and see if there could be future retro-fits, if needed.

At this time, the previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Regarding the minutes of May 9 & 17, 2023; R. Schaufelberger had not watched the recordings yet. J. Graaff indicated she had watched most of the meetings, wrote edits and sent them to the members. There was discussion and general agreement on including a suggestion to “watch the recordings” in the May minutes and in future minutes.

**Motion: To Approve the Minutes of May 9 & May 17, 2023, With the Caveat, “If you have a Question, Watch the Recordings that are in the Town Archives.”** The **Motion** was made by K. Kiefer, seconded by J. Graaff and unanimously **Approved**.

Regarding the Minutes of June 21, 2023, under Item #2, J. Graaff asked for a change to the second sentence to read: “She also suggests preparing executive summaries, as separate documents, to go along with the 2 sets of May minutes.” A **Motion to Approve the Minutes of June 21, 2023, as amended**, was made by J. Graaff, seconded by K. Kiefer and **Approved** with one abstention – T. Shachtman was not at the meeting.

6. Continuation of pros and cons of structure and function of this Committee, including remarks on CEDS charrette, Round 1 (Graaff and Belcher).

There was a lengthy discussion about possibly becoming a Commission or continuing on as a Committee. C. Sadlon asked about the CEDS charrette; J. Graaff described it as a meeting about a Comprehensive Development Strategy for the NW Hills COG. J. Graaff mentioned that she got a broader sense of what the SEDC might do. T. Shachtman asked what should we be doing that we’re not; J. Graaff noted that No. Canaan had started to invite business owners to their meetings, regarding their needs. T. Shachtman suggested doing it the other way; SEDC should go to business owners, one-on-one, as C. Sadlon is starting to do. W. Belcher agreed; C. Sadlon indicated there was too much ambiguity. K. Kiefer pointed out that she and W. Belcher had done this a number of years ago, but nothing was concrete enough to be very helpful; there was no traction for any one particular idea. C. Sadlon suggested that the SEDC stay as it is now, not create the whole new platform of a Commission. She suggested the SEDC get stronger, more organized and make progress over the next year or so. J. Graaff pointed out that the SEDC mandate is to make recommendations to the BOS; they will support certain spending for specific projects. K. Kiefer suggested demonstrating why they should become a Commission by analyzing what they would spend money on. W. Belcher agreed, but suggested holding off on making a decision, at this time. A Motion to Table Further Discussion until a Future Date, was made by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously Approved.

7. Public Comment – None

8. Correspondence and Other Business

T. Shachtman suggested that they get going on projects; he wants the SEDC to talk to businesses and ask these questions:

- What do you need?
- What are your plans? / Do you have any plans?
- How can we help you, as Town government or any other structure?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years & How can we help you get there?

W. Belcher will “carpool” to Hartford, regarding Broadband.

J. Graaff talked about sending a letter to Abby Conroy, asking that she wants to make her requests in person. Requests include keeping the SEDC informed of the timetable and the Colliers report on Salisbury center; she is suggesting that the SEDC should ask questions directly to the consultant. J. Graaff would like to know what the “charge” is to the consultant and to get them to come to a SEDC meeting. C. Sadlon would like more details; W. Belcher suggested asking Abby Conroy to come to the SEDC meeting in Sept. or Oct.

T. Shachtman would like an agenda item: “Agitate for public/private partnership” when the information is available. J. Graaff and K. Kiefer will look at the information from Allison Ellis. K. Kiefer: “Public/Private Partnership – We want to explore the benefits of a Public/Private Partnership in order to achieve, to the extent possible, universal fiber coverage for the Township of Salisbury.” J. Graaff suggested exploring forms of public/private partnership at the next meeting. The information from Allison Ellis will go into K. Kiefer’s status report, for the next meeting.

J. Graaff mentioned getting business cards for the SEDC; they would be generic, not individual names. A **Motion to Order a Minimum Number of Business Cards for the SEDC** was made by J. Graaff, seconded by R. Schaufelberger and unanimously **Approved**.

**Adjournment. So Moved** by J. Graaff, seconded by K. Kiefer and unanimously **Approved**.