

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2024 – 6:00PM (HYBRID)

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Kitty Kiefer. Present: Kitty Kiefer, Carol Sadlon, Ward Belcher, Tom Shachtman and Robert Schaufelberger.

1. (a) **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by W. Belcher, seconded by T. Shachtman and unanimously **Approved**.
 - (b) **Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2023. So Moved** by W. Belcher and seconded by T. Shachtman. Discussion: There had been comments from Janet Graaff in an email dated December 1, 2023, including: (Under 1.)...J. Graaff would like to have a line item in the Town budget and pointed out that Joe Cleaveland had earmarked \$5k for this fiscal year. since I "reminded everyone that there already is such a line item and that the Committee should make sure it remains earmarked for 2024-2025." (Under 3)J. Graaff mentioned that she has reasons for the SEDC to become a Commission; K. Kiefer noted that the BOS can veto the idea. since "We reviewed the pros and cons of committee and commission structure, and how a commission has legitimate claim to a budget and could also be structured to allow it to actively seek research and pilot grants." K. Kiefer noted that the Zoom recording is also available: <https://www.salisburyct.us/salisbury-economic-development-committee/> **The Minutes of November 15, 2023, as amended, were unanimously Approved.**
 - (c) Election of Chair for SEDC. K. Kiefer offered to serve as Chair. R. Schaufelberger made a **Motion to Nominate K. Kiefer for Chair**, seconded by W. Belcher and unanimously **Approved**. K. Kiefer made a **Motion to Nominate R. Schaufelberger to continue to serve as Vice-Chair**, seconded by W. Belcher and unanimously **Approved**.
2. (a) EV charging in Township update – R. Schaufelberger gave an update on the previous night's Planning & Zoning (P&Z) meeting. P&Z is working on changing the language surrounding EV chargers for public access; currently they are treated like structures, subject to setback requirements. A stipulation was mentioned in the language about any parking lot having 30 or more spaces would require 10% of the spaces to be served by EV chargers. R. Schaufelberger used the EDC project for EV chargers at the Town Grove, as an example, that would need additional EV chargers to satisfy the requirement. The proposed language came from State language which is more specific in application to commercial and multi-unit residential uses only. R. Schaufelberger does not recommend over-committing to the number of chargers that would have to be put in, as it is a significant expense and there could be frustration over unused EV spots not being available to others. The P&Z language will be reviewed and possibly considered again at their next meeting; R. Schaufelberger will attend that meeting, for the SEDC. He added that they are looking to have a shared resource that is compensated by usage fees, as

some other towns have done, with support from Eversource grants. W. Belcher mentioned, as did K. Kiefer, that this issue is more complicated; R. Schaufelberger brought up the ADA compliance issues, as an example. The Grove installation appears to be a good installation near the paddleball courts, as the existing power infrastructure is there, along with long term users, especially in the summer. The process will include the P&Z modification of the language and approval, then the Board of Selectmen approval. W. Belcher asked if the Tesla standard is continuing to be used; R. Schaufelberger answered yes, for now they are still looking at the CCS (Combined Charging System) standard as it's better to use now for the cost of entry and for several years. Other possible EV locations and use were discussed, as well as how to pay for the use; R. Schaufelberger wants them to be useful public resources. It was noted that a proper application to the P&Z is critical.

(b) High speed internet / Frontier or Xfinity – K. Kiefer had no update at this time. T. Shachtman suggested that complete coverage will take Town involvement; R. Schaufelberger disagreed, indicating that the Town is not responsible. R. Schaufelberger pointed out that the Town of Sharon had a very different situation, with a large unserved group of people.

(c) Anything else – not at this time

3. Discussion of projects for 2024 – New Business – including work by the Committee or work by individual members of the same. K. Kiefer asked that the members continue to be aware and report on new things.

(a) Can the SEDC participate in recycling and or trash issues? T. Shachtman suggested promoting recycling by more separation of items, particularly glass. C. Sadlon asked who is responsible now; K. Kiefer suggested consulting the towns of Salisbury and Sharon with an offer of help from this Committee; T. Shachtman agreed.

T. Shachtman brought up the subject of senior services and suggested that the town should be doing more. He suggested recommending to the BOS to have a dedicated full-time person, raising the budget and providing more services to seniors. K. Kiefer and C. Sadlon mentioned the programs that go on at the Grove now.

(b) Shall we change our name to Salisbury Economic and Community Development Committee? C. Sadlon had put the idea forward; R. Schaufelberger disagreed with adding “Community” to the name. C. Sadlon suggested promoting ideas, not duplicating efforts. C. Sadlon expressed that the Town doesn't have a good way to communicate, as the website is too difficult to navigate now and the need to find funding/grants for a website upgrade. W. Belcher commented that it sounds like a BOS issue. R. Schaufelberger wants to review the State of CT language, regarding EDCs and asked to Table discussion of Item 3. (b). There was further brief discussion about the importance of communication. W. Belcher suggested bringing up the website improvement to the BOS; K. Kiefer mentioned integrating social media; C. Sadlon will research some useful examples. K. Kiefer suggested encouraging updates and asked how to present that to the BOS; R. Schaufelberger commented that specifics details and examples are needed; T. Shachtman suggested coming up with a list of questions to be added to the website.

(c) Appalachian Trail Welcoming Community status? K. Kiefer asked to Table the discussion.

4. Public Comment – None

5. Additional Discussion

W. Belcher asked about the status of the POCD; K. Kiefer answered that it will hopefully be done by June, 2024 and noted that the Colliers report is not complete for Salisbury; Michael Klemens and Abby Conroy are working on editing it. K. Kiefer suggested that staffing is a problem; she will go to the Board of Finance meeting to learn about the Town audit. W. Belcher suggested that they go to meetings and be influencers.

Adjournment. So Moved by W. Belcher, seconded by C. Sadlon and unanimously **Approved**.