

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 – 9:00AM (HYBRID)

The meeting was called to order at 9:01am. Present: Kitty Kiefer, Robert Schaufelberger, Carol Sadlon, Alice Peck, Adam Higgins and David Becker. Absent: Christopher Baetz.

1. **Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was Approved, as amended.**
2. Additions to the Agenda. K. Kiefer asked to add an item about meeting with Abby Conroy; D. Becker suggested that include discussion of Interdepartmental meetings; it was added as Item #6a.
3. **Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2025. So Moved** by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by C. Sadlon, **With All in Favor.**
4. Business Community Survey – D. Becker
 - Why are we doing a business survey – the beginning of a conversation around building a community of business issues.
 - Data-driven policy that guides policies, such as infrastructure or support programs
 - Responses may reveal experiences, such as permits, as well as opportunities. There is a reason why structure is needed – it is a benchmark for progress that sets a baseline so that improvements can be tracked over time.
 - Is Salisbury a good place to start a business, on a scale of 1 – 5; information can be used to encourage other businesses to move to Salisbury.
 - There are opportunities to use this information for stronger funding and partnerships; it can be used for grant applications and State programs.

Regarding the gathering of data, A. Peck commented about not being sure about trying to write down answers while having a conversation with someone, but sees the point of it. D. Becker commented that he uses phone voice memo and converts it to text in Jot form data, by asking questions and submitting the responses. The question is how to take this info and share it. K. Kiefer suggested that members should not edit; she would like to do an actual interview with D. Becker. A. Peck mentioned that both her Father and Bill Kolgan are interested in attending a SEDC meeting, as new business owners.

- Target number of complete interviews in Phase 1 was set at 26.
- The list of 26 businesses was reviewed and a number of interviews were assigned to each member.
- They will try to get done as many as possible before the next meeting October 16, 2025.

D. Becker will talk to Joe Cleaveland about getting the Town to pay for \$25 gift certificates for each survey participant. A. Peck commented on the need for more open communications and sharing of information.

5. Define mission of Economic Development Committee

K. Kiefer read from the CT General Statutes Section 7-136 (b) and (c) Municipal economic development commissions, including submitting an annual report with recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. R. Schaufelberger suggested avoiding meaningless terms, such as “rural character”, in the mission statement and found the 2019 statement for consideration: “Appointed by the Town’s Selectmen, the SEDC is a group of concerned citizens whose role is to identify, create, assist and promote critical projects that benefit the residents, businesses and government of the Township of Salisbury. The Committee will act as resource for project stakeholders offering advice, public promotion and coordination while advocating for the continued protection of our area’s rural character.”

6. EV Charger Update – R. Schaufelberger had nothing to report yet; Artis is doing another application.

6a. Interdepartmental meetings – D. Becker talked about pre-application meetings with Abby Conroy and other departments. R. Schaufelberger commented that A. Conroy supports those weekly meetings and that the EDC should reach out to other departments to formalize the process. A Motion to have K. Kiefer and R. Schaufelberger meet with A. Conroy, was made by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by D. Becker, With All in Favor. K. Kiefer will share their questionnaire form with A. Conroy.

7. Public Comment – None

8. **Adjournment – So Moved** by R. Schaufelberger, seconded by A. Peck, **With All in Favor.**