

SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2025 – 9:00AM (HYBRID)

Present: Kitty Kiefer, Christopher Baetz, Carol Sadlon, Alice Peck and David Becker. Absent: Robert Schaufelberger and Adam Higgins. Attending: Larissa Vreeland.

1. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by A. Peck, seconded by C. Baetz, **With All in Favor**.
2. Discuss/**Approve Minutes of November 20, 2025. A Motion to Approve** was made by A. Peck, seconded by C. Sadlon, **With All in Favor**.
3. Additions to the Agenda. None.
4. Members of this Committee's projects and updates.
 - a. EV charging station update – None
 - b. Discussion of questionnaire – C. Sadlon commented that the survey and results seem to be going very well
5. New Business
 - a. Discuss a possible budget for the Committee – K. Kiefer talked about a budget proposed by D. Becker, which was then sent to Rista Malanca at the NHCOG. Ms. Malanca will join the next SEDC meeting in January, 2026, to discuss possible regional funding available for economic development issues. K. Kiefer shared a presentation from the Northwest CT Economic Development Collaborative Annual Meeting December 4, 2025; Ms. Malanca will give the presentation at the next meeting. K. Kiefer will send a link of the presentation to the members. D. Becker presented a budget proposal which he described as transforming the responsibilities of the SEDC and actions they could take. D. Becker added that the SEDC could shift from a business focus to more general community issues, such as supporting local events. K. Kiefer suggested that the NHCOG may be able to provide some support; funds could be from the State, but probably not Town funds this year. K. Kiefer will inform Ms. Malanca about the business owner survey the SEDC is doing; the SEDC will think about questions to ask her at the January meeting. Larissa Vreeland, Salisbury General Store owner, mentioned that she will be hosting a small business meeting at the White Hart on January 5, 2026 at 6pm; the group meets quarterly. A few SEDC members may attend. (At this time, C. Baetz left the meeting) Ms. Vreeland added that she has taken over Fall Festival planning from Jeanette Weber and is trying to put together a business "meet & greet" networking event this winter.
 - b. Develop a Mission Statement for 2026. D. Becker handed out a list of questions for the members to review about the role of the SEDC. K. Kiefer read a statement from the CT General

Statutes Title 7 Municipalities, Chapter 97, General Provisions, Section 7-136, Municipal Economic Development Commissions, about EDC possibilities. D. Becker asked if it is possible for a 501.3.c to be set up for the SEDC, if focused on community development. Ms. Vreeland asked if the SEDC had a list of businesses that she could contact; A. Peck responded that they do have a Google document that they could share with her. Ms. Vreeland talked about events that she runs, what kind of assistance would be welcome and also mentioned that Kent sells tickets for their event.

6. Public Comment – None
7. Land Use Office, Abby Conroy update – the Regulations re-write has just started. P&Z decisions are less predictable now; Cathy Shyer is the new Chair for the year; they have a full member vacancy and Alternate vacancy also. Some State-mandated items will be addressed in February. The office is dealing with lots of online permitting; the process challenge is to get applicants to start in the right place. They are adding more questions to the building permit application form, which includes zoning, and trying to improve efficiency; they are trying to get it live by January 1, 2026. The office is using their database to email prior applicants about changes, events, etc.; open permits may get closed now. Another project is the 3 yr. pathways grant which has 1.5 years left to do the planning & development; they are working with Haley Ward (engineering) on the plan for the rail trail from Library St. to Dresser Woods. Pedestrian and parking considerations will be addressed. Ms. Conroy mentioned that the kitchen at Lime Rock Park burned down so they will be coming back for permitting to build something on the infield area, maybe downsized from the original plan.
8. **Adjourn. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by C. Sadlon, **With all in Favor.**