SALISBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2026 – 9:00AM (HYBRID)

Present: David Becker, Robert Schaufelberger, Kitty Kiefer, Adam Higgins, Carol Sadlon and Alice Peck. Attending: Bill Colgan and Curtis Rand.

1. Approval of Agenda – Three items were added to the agenda: Approval of Agenda; Public Comment; Approval of July 16, 2026 meeting Minutes. A **Motion to Approve the Agenda, as Amended**, was made by K. Kiefer, seconded by R. Schaufelberger, **With All in Favor**.

2. Bill Colgan, Owner of Grassland Dessert Café in Lakeville.
   D. Becker asked Mr. Colgan about his experience opening a business in this area. Mr. Colgan commented that it is beautiful here, but there are not a lot of people. Mr. Colgan spoke about having a passion for the business; finding a niche; broadening product offerings; and thinking about the audience. His business delivers to the Hotchkiss School and they try to do some outreach; they are collecting data from credit card sales. They will have a delivery person in the fall. D. Becker commented that they are doing some things that aren't just bottom-line restaurant things. Mr. Colgan responded that they are open 7 days now, have hired lots of high school kids and a 22 year old manager. Mr. Colgan is very hands-on at the business. A. Peck commented that Grassland is a big boost to business in Lakeville. Mr. Colgan mentioned the train station and what to do with the empty building; he suggested retail pop-ups or a railroad museum. K. Kiefer commented that the Town shouldn't own the building or be a landlord. Mr. Rand commented that the train station is going to get moved back; the $611 bid has been approved and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will pay for the restoration; the Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026 for the vote on the relocation. Mr. Colgan was thanked for attending and left the meeting. Mr. Rand expressed that values are different here than some other towns, such as the beauty and the real estate, that you don't want to change.

3. Review budget recommendations
   D. Becker reviewed activities that could be in a Phase 1, including: a comprehensive business directory; a quarterly newsletter in print; planning business meetings; continuing the business surveys. The question is how to fund and how to staff. Mr. Rand commented that previous attempts to have a Chamber of Commerce or other business gatherings fell apart, even with the offer of town support. K. Kiefer suggested inviting businesses to come to SEDC meetings quarterly. D. Becker will provide Mr. Rand a summary of the survey results. Mr. Rand talked about the continued high value of real estate here and having attractive businesses. A. Higgins commented that the SEDC would like to be a connector for

the businesses and the Town. Mr. Rand asked what businesses the SEDC is talking to; he commented that the businesses should be working from the ground up to connect themselves, speaking up and participating at meetings. Mr. Rand described a recent meeting he attended, along with LaBonne's, SLR Consulting, Haley Ward Consulting, 4 Marketplace board members, Miles Todaro (Land Use office Tech Specialist), and Jeremy DeCarli (Tyche Planning Consultant for the Town). Mr. Rand commented that the main goal is to get the Town's goals, LaBonne's, and the Marketplace to mesh; they will meet again in about a month. D. Becker commented that the SEDC could be the catalyst for businesses getting together and help explain the unique set of values here. A. Higgins asked what Mr. Rand would like to see from this group; Mr. Rand mentioned the example of the controversy over weekend food trucks as a recent issue. A. Peck commented that this Committee should focus on ways to enhance the experience for people who live and pay taxes here. Mr. Rand suggested that the EDC work on getting some development going at the Pocketknife Square and maybe new signage and logo for the Town.

4. Businesses opening on Main Street – No news yet

5. EV charger dashboard – R. Schaufelberger reported over $300 in July; they are now getting some data on zip codes of users.

6. New Business – None

7. **Approval of July 16, 2026 SEDC meeting Minutes. So Moved** by K. Kiefer, seconded by A. Peck, **With All in Favor**.

8. Public Comments – None

Adjournment. So Moved by K. Kiefer, seconded by C. Sadlon, **With All in Favor**.