



**Town of Beacon Falls
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403
C/O Town Clerk
(Subject to Revision)**

Members Present: John W. Betkoski, III (**JB**), Dennis Phipps (**DP**), David Pokras (**DPo**), Victor Lembo (**VL**)

Members Absent: Edward Korzon (**EK**), Edward Mulvihill (**EM**), Robert Desrochers (**RD**)

Others Present: 2 members of the public.

1. **Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call:** JB called meeting to order at 6:58 pm.
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Motion to approve minutes from October 23, 2023 meeting. DP/DPo. No discussion. All ayes.
3. **Comments from the Public:**
 - a. Joann Delenick – Park and Recreation is working to build hiking trails that would connect the whole town.
4. **Correspondence:** None
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Main Street Update – **VL**: What can we do to improve curb appeal downtown? **JB**: We applied for grant money to pick up a walkway from below Fitzgerald and bring it towards Beacon Falls Market. We will resubmit.
 - b. Beacon Falls Market Space – **VL**: Movement on the market building? **JB**: Unclear what owner wants to do.
 - c. Naugatuck Valley Regional Development Corp. Other Updates - **JB**: Working with Thomas Hyde of the NVRD Corp. Will also contact the State Department of Economic Development re: future use and status of Fire School Property. **VL**: How many years has it been idle? Any updates?
 - d. Local Business Plan – No updates.
 - e. Community Project Updates – **JB**: Would love to invite our Town Planners to the next EDC Meeting to discuss the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.
 - f. Local Business Recognition – Discussion & Action **JB**: Tap Room is doing well. **VL**: It looks nice, and people have been patronizing. **JB**: Dunkin and Antonio's have also been going strong.
6. **New Business:**

JB: Another idea that was put forward was having the town bring utilities from Lancaster to Pent Road. **DPo**: That might make sense. **JB**: We should also organize a breakfast with local business owners.
7. **Grant News /Update/EDC Coordinator Update:**

JB: We need to get our budget information into the Finance Dept. Last year we budgeted \$25,000 for the coordinator. Motion to approve \$25,000 as a line item for the coordinator position in the FY 2025 Budget. **DP/DPo. No discussion. All ayes.**
8. **Payment of Bills:** None
9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM. DP/DPo. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Daigle
Temporary Clerk, EDC