



Town of Burlington

**TOWN OF BURLINGTON, CT
MINUTES OF MEETING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018 AT 7:00PM
BURLINGTON TOWN HALL – SENIOR CENTER**

- I. Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Michael Androw, Kevin Bair, Todd Coleman, Tod Kallenbach, and David Wrabel. Guests were David Goshdigian, Dr. Carl Salsedo, and Ted Shafer.
- II. Public Comment: during the request for public comment, Shafer requested recommendations for areas of consulting expertise to assist the EDC's efforts. Suggestions included grant writing, serving as a business and developer liaison/resource for the Town, and generating publicity. Shafer will address these recommendations with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.
- III. Review/Approve minutes of March 12, 2018 meeting: the minutes were approved by Androw, Coleman, Kallenbach, and Wrabel; with Bair abstaining based on his being absent from the meeting.
- IV. Discussion: Farmer's Market opportunities, with guests Dr. Carl Salsedo, faculty member of the UConn College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources and member of the Burlington Board of Selectmen; and David Goshdigian, Chairman of the Tavern Day Planning Committee. Salsedo suggested that reestablishing a Burlington Farmer's Market is a desirable way to bring Burlington residents together in the Town center and support Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from local farmers. Salsedo suggested including the numerous Burlington-based growers/sellers, such as Hard Rain Farm, Hogan's Cider Mill, Lamothe's Sugar House, Larson's Garden Center, Renaissance Farm, Tonn's Orchard, and others. Shafer also suggested participation with the Northwest Connecticut Regional Food Hub and Foodshare. Goshdigian indicated that the Tavern Day Planning Committee is interested in having a Farmer's Market section for the 2018 Tavern Day currently being planned for September 16. Kallenbach suggested starting with a monthly event frequency during June, July, and August and culminating with the Tavern Day event. The group discussed Saturdays as the preferred days (with Tavern Day taking place on a Sunday), for greatest potential public attendance during the weekend, and so as not to conflict with the Collinsville Farmer's market held weekly on Sundays from June to October. Suggested locations with convenient Town center access and parking for the monthly events included the Congregational Church lot, Historical Society

lot, Burlington Commons lot, and the Joanie's Child Care lot. Salsedo and Goshdigian volunteered to contact the growers. Shafer will plan a public information session. EDC offered help with planning and implementation.

- V. Discussion of EDC goals/work plan for 2018: Coleman discussed his recent fact-finding meetings with Burlington businesses, including Advanced Physical Therapy, Sorrento's Pizza, and Women Nation. The most commonly stated challenge was finding new and effective ways to get the word out and build awareness and a broader customer base for their businesses. Coleman suggested that coordinating businesses with local towns' social media channels may be the most effective solution, based on current public participation on community group Facebook postings, for example. Kallenbach stated that Beth Paul in the Assessor's Office has recently updated the list of Burlington owned and based businesses, which might be utilized to make further contacts and gather more information.
- VI. Town Plan of Conservation & Development update: Shafer reported that he will be recommending to the Planning & Zoning Commission that Jocelyn Ayer from the Northwest Hills Council of Governments assist with facilitating input meetings from Town boards, commissions, local organizations and residents, and with writing the plan update.
- VII. Updates on business/property developments: there were no additional updates.
- VIII. Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tod Kallenbach – Chairman, Burlington EDC