

Economic Development Committee

May 31, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Bill Dowey, Nik Coates, Bruce Dorner, Les Dion, Vincent Paul Migliore, Janet Cavanagh, and Carolyn Schulman.

Members Absent: Rick Alpers and Paul Regan.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Bill Dowey.

Minutes from 4/19/17 were motioned for approval by Bruce Dorner and second by Les Dion. 7-0

Minutes from 5/17/17 will be approved at 6/14/17 meeting; Bill Dowey has some changes to be made.

Recitation of Mission Statement: Les Dion recited the mission statement.

Guest at EDC meeting 5/31/17: Ed Mandelbaum was a guest this evening, he is interested in the marketing and community development of our town and came with some very good ideas. He has some very good contacts at PSU and offered to speak with them regarding our Logo/Web site. Bill Dowey asked if Bruce Dorner could partner with him on this project and Mr. Mandelbaum agreed. Nik Coates would like to shelve the Web design until after he and Rick Alpers have a meeting with the current Web Designer to get a better feel of his progress with this project.

Market Analysis and Business Profile: Janet Cavanagh needs more time to prepare for the meeting with the Board on this subject.

Visioning and Collaboration: The meeting is now scheduled for June 15th at 4:00pm at the Town Hall. The Agenda for the evening is "Goals and Aspirations for our Town". Nik Coates has given each member of the committee three questions that he would like responses too and submitted back to him in a timely manner so he may compile a format to present at the June 15th meeting.

Land Use Planner Hire: This position is being posted next week following a discussion with the Select Board on Thursday regarding improvements to our service and help with our staff.

Info Booth Update: The booth is stocked and open! Les Dion does still need to get a schedule with volunteers for staffing this booth. Ms. Dion is going to make up a calendar and present this to the various Clubs and ask them to fill the slots and those will be there days and times for summer. The committee agrees the booth will be open on Friday's from 4-7pm, so there will also be a need for staffing on these days. Ms. Dion feels there is a need for a board placed at the booth so there may be some organization for advertising upcoming events but this will need to be monitored. Also a letter needs to be drafted to send out to local businesses to see if they want to place any brochures in the booth, and also send to local lodging businesses to see if they want to advertise there accommodations and fees.

Brochure and Map Update: Carolyn Schulman has reached out to the Newfound HS to help with designing a logo for the Brochure and Ms. Schulman will also reach out to Amy Dillamagna to see about getting a map done for area hiking/walking trails.

Communications equipment/microcell network: Mr. Dowey is still pushing forward with cell tower; he does not have anything new to update committee.

Web Site Update: Nik Coates and Rick Alpers will be having a meeting with the current Web Designer to get a better feel for his needs for this site.

Bristol Falls/Pemi Trail Update: Nik Coates is making headway with DRED regarding the Grant for this project.

Report on Freudenberg-SAU Partnership: Vincent Migliore presented to the committee a slide show that was very detailed regarding the decline in population of our schools. Mr. Migliore presented the efforts in place to retain our local talent such as (ELO's) extended learning opportunities for students. The decrease in student population has significantly declined since 2005; some of the reasons are the cost of housing in our area, home schooling and smaller families. Belknap EDC is already in partnership with businesses to help HS students acquire internships and employment opportunities and the committee would like to plug into these structures that are in place than rather trying to start from ground zero.

Public Comments: Janet Cavanagh asked the committee if they thought a "Downtown Commission Committee" would be a something to work on.

Next Meeting: June 14th will be the next EDC meeting and the Agenda for that night will be to discuss the responses to the three questions Nik Coates presented to this committee.

Adjournment: Bruce Dorner moved to close meeting at 8:30 pm and Les Dion second. 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Sarto