



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Committee members in attendance: Charlie Albano – Chair, Krystin Watts, Neil Nevins, Mark Govoni, Will Minsinger

Others present: Ken Cogswell

1. Minutes

A. Charlie wanted to make a comment regarding #10 in the May 15 minutes.

10. Exit 9

Charlie will be meeting with the Selectmen on May 21 to talk about the potential development at exit 9 and will be asking the Board who will be making the phone calls to the potential developer and Concord Hospital. Concord Hospital has interest in expanding the health offices. Charlie feels there needs to be leadership from the town to make this happen. Charlie is willing to work with the Selectboard to make this happen, but Charlie feels the Selectboard has a role in this to keep the interest moving forward. Charlie said Selectman Carson has told him that he has contacts at the Concord hospital and Market Basket and Charlie feels the Selectboard should move forward and make contact with the developer.

B. Charlie said as a result of the May 21 meeting he was informed that Selectman Carson has made some contacts with the developer.

C. The May 15 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Website Design

A. Charlie said he had spoken with Selectman Edelmann about the status of the new website. Charlie learned there will be an alpha test of the website in about a week, he will be notified by email on what the next steps are. The goal is to have the site up and running around August 1. Charlie said he has invited Graham Pellettieri to join the the EDAC and has IT experience. Charlie wants Graham included in the assessment of the website as well as all the other members of the EDAC.

B. Ken Cogswell said he was at the Selectman's meeting last night and they talked about the alpha role out. Selectman Carson wants the Board to have a first look, and then the staff look at the site. Selectman Edelmann wants to make sure there is a procedure for maintenance so the site doesn't become static.

C. Neil said the Energy Committee will be creating content for the new website.

3. Warner Businesses

A. There are at least 63 out of 84 Warner businesses that belong to the Chamber. The Chambers website will be linked to the town website. Charlie suggested a meeting with the Chamber and area businesses for feedback on their business needs. Will said there was a question in the survey, do you want assistance in learning more on how to grow your business, and the response was minimal. It was suggested to provide the resources for businesses to reach out to on the website instead. Krystin will try to attend some of the Chamber meetings. Mark will identify some resources that can be added to the website.

4. Business Retention and Expansion

Neil talked about the block party event sponsored by MainStreet Bookends that drew in about 1,000 people on Main Street. The concert series in the park itself brings in up to 6,000 people that feeds the local businesses. They continue to highlight Main Street. A representative from a recent new business, Olde Window Restorers, will be invited to the next EDAC meeting, they are also interested in doing workshops. The Naturalpathic Dr. that recently moved in on Main St. is also interested in doing workshops. These workshops will bring more people to Main St. A small brewery is in the works with the Planning Board for an establishment on Mill St.

5. Warner Power

Mark is going to find the contact for Warner Power (building is for sale) so the EDAC can begin talking with them. Mark suggested listing available commercial properties on the EDAC web page.

6. Signage

Neil said the signage for the village area will be worked out in conjunction with the roundabout dedication. Neil thinks there is actual Legislation to make it easier for towns to put signage in roundabouts.

7. Childcare

Ken said he looked at the State website regarding childcare and said it is very lengthy with layers of bureaucracy, its an education on what you have to go through for licensing. Charlie would like to find out what the demand is for childcare. Will said childcare came up in the survey a lot, top 4.

8. Budget

Charlie will be writing to the Selectmen requesting a small budget for the EDAC in 2020 as well as removing "Advisory" from the Committee.

9. Rack Cards

The EDAC will be receiving 2,000 cards for distribution, the question is, what to do with the cards which will be discussed at their next meeting.

10. Mural

Dates and times need to be defined, the size and proposals need to be gathered. Charlie proposes having a meeting that is focused on the mural. Charlie nominated Nancy Martin as a member of the mural sub-committee.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at about 7:30 pm.

Recorder of the minutes: Mary Whalen