



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Committee members in attendance: Charlie Albano – Chair, Nancy Martin, Krystin Watts, Selectman Kimberley Edelmann, Neil Nevins, Sarah Hansen, Brett Ingold

1. Minutes

Meeting minutes from March 20, 2019 were unanimously approved.

2. Tourism Conference

Charlie talked to the Committee about how informative the conference was last year, he brought back a lot of information to the Committee as a result of that attendance. This year the Selectmen did not approve the \$140.00 to attend the conference. Charlie was disappointed and said if the Selectboard wants a long lasting committee the Selectboard needs to think about spending money in support of. The EDAC is going to talk about establishing a budget. Kimberley said there is a new Board and she herself was surprised the conference was not approved. She said the EDAC needs to make the current Selectboard aware of the value of the contribution of this Committee, this is something this Committee needs to do again. Kimberley, as the Selectboard representative will try as well. Charlie suggested the newest Selectboard member, Judy Newman-Rogers attend an EDAC meeting for a better understanding. The invitation will be extended for the next meeting on May 15th.

3. Rack Card

Charlie said he also went to the Selectboard and asked for \$2,000 for the rack card and was turned down (reasoning was not mentioned). Charlie will ask for funding from the Nancy Sibley Wilkins Fund.

4. Small Towns

Charlie talked about how 4 small towns in New Hampshire are ranked in the top 100 across the country as the safest. Warner is ranked 98, Grantham 46, Greenland 86 and Nottingham 90. The Committee agreed Warner's placement should be promoted.

5. Website

Charlie recommended setting up a sub-committee meeting regarding tourism. Dan Watts [website designer] will be invited to the next EDAC meeting. Krystin will set up the sub-committee meeting. Charlie has met with Dan Watts and went over all the economic development issues and all the information Charlie's sub-committee has put together which will be included in the Economic Development site. Charlie likes the concept of listing all the businesses in Warner on the website. It was also noticed that there is no reference to the Energy Committee anywhere on the town website. Charlie will be contacting an Energy Committee member on their mission statement. Neil said he can work on that information.

6. Fall Foliage Festival

Charlie said Will Minsinger met with the Festival and there was a good cross over of information. The Festival will be invited to an EDAC meeting in the future.

7. Exit 9

A. Charlie reported he met with the Exit 9 Developer, staff and engineer on March 27 at Bookends. Others that attended were Mark Govoni, Nancy Martin, Neil Nevins, Anthony Mento, Alice Chamberlain and Ken Cogswell. Charlie brought the Design Charrette along as well. Conversations included being complimentary to surrounding businesses not competitive. The EDAC survey results were also shared. A business that paid a living wage with health insurance and a place graduates can work and stay in the community was suggested. The developer said he would follow up on a phone call from Concord Hospital regarding expansion of the health facility. Nancy said the thing that interested the developer is moving the local pharmacy down into the medical building where all the services are. Neil said having a discussion with the developer was a good start and following up is important as well as having the Selectmen be proactive. Charlie said some of the discussion was what role now does the Selectboard take. Charlie said he spoke with Selectman Carson and others have spoken to other Selectboard members about reaching out to the developer. Charlie asked Kimberley if there has been any discussion, Kimberley said there has

been none. Charlie said the consensus from this Committee is for the Selectboard to reach out to the developer with help from the EDAC. A meeting could be set up collectively with the Selectboard, the developer and Concord Hospital. Charlie said he had a conversation with Selectman Carson a few weeks ago saying it would be really good for the Selectboard to make those contacts and Selectman Carson said he had some contacts. Charlie feels the community and the Selectboard need to be aggressive.

B. Neil said it was a good idea inviting Anthony Mento to the meeting who worked on the Design Charrette and was able to explain it to the developer giving the developer something tangible to look at. Neil said overall it was a good meeting. Kimberley said she asked the developer directly was he intending to build something and sell and learned that he is not, and will basically become a part of the community. Nancy asked if the Committee can depend on Selectman Carson to make the contact. Kimberley said Selectman Carson has not discussed this with the Selectboard at all so Kimberley will bring it up at a meeting. Charlie said to Kimberley this is an official request from the EDAC, to have that conversation and provide a response back to the EDAC. The EDAC is aware that the Selectboard has a lot to deal with, but, the EDAC feels this is important.

C. Neil said another topic discussed with the developer is Warner is a solar town. The developer said that he has incorporated solar in some of his projects.

8. Geographical Information System (GIS)

Charlie said the GIS was voted down at Town Meeting. Kimberley shared that the GIS is on the Selectboard's list of priorities. There was a lot of people who did not know what a GIS is and have fears of what it is and what it implies. Kimberley feels those people that had the fears should engage in a committee and let them learn and then sell it to the town.

9. Fire Station on Kearsarge Mt. Road

Charlie said he had asked for an appraisal on the fire station located on Kearsarge Mt. Road. Kimberley said the Fire Chief and the Public Works Department will be using that building for storage and during the Fall Foliage Festival the building will be used as the medical center.

10. RSA 79-E

Kimberley is going to verify if RSA 79-E has been voted upon.

11. Signage at Exit 9

Neil is still working on solutions for signage at Exit 9.

12. Letter to Madgetech/Developer

Sarah will be creating a letter which will be signed by Charlie about bringing in complimentary businesses to Warner rather than competitive businesses.

13. Window Signs & Rack Card Designs

Krystin received in-put from the Committee members for the window signs that will be placed at the various entities at Exit 9 informing customers about the village area one mile up the road. The final version of the rack card was looked at as well.

14. Mural

Brett said the next step is to draft a Request for Proposal that would be sent to different local organizations in the State. The Committee will review the RFP before it is sent out which will be in October. The theme will focus on the 250th anniversary/history of Warner. The Historical Society provided a lot of information and will assist the chosen artist. Brett said the Historical Society had the same idea and would like to see the mural in place a couple of years before the 250th anniversary to build awareness. And between the time when the mural is in place and the 250 anniversary having more murals put up around town in different places. Sarah feels there should be guidelines established about the mural. The mural would go up in the beginning of 2021, the cost is not known yet. Funding options still need to be determined.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at about 7:30 pm.

Recorder of the minutes: Mary Whalen