



Economic Development Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

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

Others present: None

1. Olde Window Restorers

Charlie reported the owner of Olde Window Restorers couldn't make this meeting tonight and will be invited to a future meeting.

2. Minutes

The June 19 minutes were reviewed and accepted. In these minutes there is discussion about Exit 9 and Charlie reported that there are discussions going on with an interested entity. He also said what was done as a committee, meeting with the developer, has been successful and partnering with the Selectboard has been positive as well.

3. Website

A. The website is up and running, and continues to be a work in progress. Positive comments have been received.

B. Charlie asked the committee if they should help developers by putting available commercial property information on the website in the Economic Development page. Charlie said he contacted the company that is marketing Warner Power and set up a meeting with them for later this month, Charlie asked for participation from the committee. Charlie asked for opinions from the committee.

- Brett said it could be a useful tool to encourage developers to engage with the committee. He said developers are always looking for property and doesn't see the need to add it to the EDAC page. His question is who would keep the information about available commercial property up to date.
- Mark thinks it would be a good idea to list the properties, but, how would it be maintain. Maybe adding a link would help.
- Neil thinks it was very productive to meet with the Exit 9 developer. The developer walked away with a sense of what Warner wants and if this develops in a positive direction Neil feels the committee had a substantial influence on that.
- Mark said it shows Warner is business friendly. Charlie said when he first got on the EDAC he had heard Warner is not business friendly, but can't quantify that. Neil said look at all the businesses on Main St., he thinks a community that is successful in developing and maintaining its local economy has an idea on the types of businesses they are looking for. Warner is not interested in strip malls or a toxic waste dump, it's not being unfriendly, it's being clear on what the town wants to develop, a strong economy.

4. Warner Power

A. Charlie invited the committee to meet with the Marketer for Warner Power on August 29 beginning at 9:00 am located at Warner Power. Charlie also invited Anthony Mento.

B. The Committee talked about what they would like to see located in the Warner Power building.

- High tech industry
- Charlie talked about tax incentives the town could initiate
- Something that will be long term
- Manufacturing
- Consider multiple businesses in the building
- Office space/Incubator
- Condo's
- Solar supplier

5. Brochure

Charlie said he has 2,000 rack cards left over after distribution. He asked the Committee for ideas for what to do with them. Neil recommended Bed & Breakfasts and will take a stack of them.

6. Mountain Biking

Mark talked about bringing mountain biking to Warner as a long term vision. In moving forward Brett talked about meeting with the Friends of the Minks which is shared by Henniker, Bradford, Contoocook. In the beginning they met with the Central NH Regional Planning Commission in Concord. Mountain biking doesn't interfere with property owners that abut, doesn't effect walkers or horse riders. The Minks is the right demographic for mountain biking. Charlie recommended establishing a mountain biking sub-committee with Mark, Bret and Nancy. Mark talked about how impressed he was with Burke Mountain, it was all home grown with small entrepreneurs doing their own thing. Mark is interested in creating mountain biking on the opposite side of town from the Mink Hills. It was agreed to establish a sub-committee on mountain biking, both Mark and Bret will be members.

7. Business Retention

Neil talked about Warnerstock that is taking place on September 7th, there will be music from 2:00pm to 10:00 pm with patrons supporting the local businesses in the village area.

8. Posters

The committee looked at a poster Krystin created with the intent to inform Exit 9 patrons that there is more to see up the road in the village area. Krystin will have copies made for distribution in the businesses at Exit 9.

9. Complete Streets

Charlie said Tim Blagden is invited to the September meeting to talk to EDAC about Complete Streets and the EDAC will re-invite Olde Window Restorers as well. Charlie will ask Emma Bates to Chair the September meeting.

10. Mural

Bret said the sub-committee met and worked on the selection process and refining the RFP. The intent is to release the RFP at Fall Foliage Festival.

11. Solar

Neil said the USDA Rural Development has announced a new round of solar funding for businesses and housing projects and will cover up to 25% of the total cost. Neil would like to hold an informational meeting to get the word out. Charlie recommended using the website. Neil said he is working with the Community Action Program to use solar at the senior housing on North Road.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at about 7:30 pm.

Recorder of the minutes: Mary Whalen