

**Economic Development Committee**  
**March 14, 2024 -Final**

**Present:** Ron Rzasa (Chair), John Pieper, Gerald Lins, Marion Rzasa, Chele Hood, Doreen Monahan, and Fran Shippee (BOS Representative)

**Absent:** Erin Soltys

**Guest:** Linda Sedlewicz & Jeff Scott

**Meeting Called to Order at 6:04PM**

**Presiding:** Ron Rzasa

**Secretary Report**

The Feb. 22, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

1. **CRG Membership:** A motion was made by Marion, seconded by John, to approve the following people as members of the CRG for the term ending on December 31, 2024. The motion passed unanimously:
  - a. Linda Sedlewicz; Nancy Mendel, Linda Sedlewicz, Michelle J. DellaVita, James Allen, Nate Loomis, Ron Rzasa, Jeff Scott, Gerry Lins & Deborah Kaufman
  - b. Motion was made by John, seconded by Chele, to approve the appointment of Linda Sedlewicz as Chairman of the CRG. The motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Because Julianna & Drew Kate Dodson are no longer Chesterfield residents, they cannot serve officially on this committee. In that Julianna is one of the founding members and extremely knowledgeable about the project, it was decided to give her the title of "Spokesperson". She and Drew can still attend meetings but cannot vote.

**Old Business:**

1. **Chesterfield Creative Artisan Fair, Sat. April 27, 10A – 2P:** There are 3 ½ tables left, four vendors still need to reconfirm and three people are on the waiting list. Five vendors are new. (They will be showing photos, old maps, mixed arts, and wood finishing.) We have 40 potential vendors. If the weather is nice, we may have more who have expressed interest in setting up outside. Because space is getting tight, it was suggested that the two front rooms be emptied and used.
  - a. Fri. April 26<sup>th</sup> set up is moved to 4:30PM.
  - b. Information for Tricia to post on Facebook, etc. is coming in. She plans on showcasing a vendor as "Feature of the Week".
  - c. Ideas on improving registration, space distribution, etc. should be included in the questionnaire given out at the event.
  - d. The vendors should be invited to the EDC meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss any improvements. Their input is necessary for these events' continual effectiveness.
2. **Chesterfield Revitalization Group (CRG):** The subcommittee members reconfirmed their commitment for another year. They voted in Linda Sedlewicz as Chairman (See New Business)
  - a. The committee has received the BOS Letter of Support in favor of the Property Assessment. The next step is to invite Melinda Bubier and/or J. B. Mack to meet with the BOS
  - b. They discussed how to approach \$10,000 CRG Warrant Article 36 at the Town Meeting which the Budget Committee did not approve. It was decided that Julianna should make the

- presentation. Flow Charts may be handed out to clarify the complexity of the project, the necessity of it, and to address misinformation.
- c. Roland Vollbehr did attend their meeting on March 11th. He had inspected the building with Jeff Scott. He would like to use it as a warehouse for solar equipment. In the beginning, it would not necessitate having water and electricity.
    - i. Of course, a lot of work has to be done before this step can be taken.
  - d. If the warrant article doesn't pass, we will need to consider other approaches. All members are encouraged to attend the town meeting on Sat. March 16, 1pm at Chesterfield School.
3. **EDC's Budget:** The Budget committee recommended that the EDC Budget approved by the BOS be cut from \$3,786 to \$3,220, a reduction of \$566 back to the 2023 level. To return the funds to our budget, it will be necessary to make a motion to amend this line item at the Town Meeting.
- a. Ron will make a short presentation to amend the line item. It is important that the town residents realize that the EDC does do a lot of work for them. This is to address some misconceptions about EDC "ineffectiveness".
4. **Chesterfield Business Expo – April 6<sup>th</sup> 9AM – 2PM:** The event has 16 vendors. Doreen has been working hard to confirm those vendors that agreed last fall and to find more to fill the space. It seems we are competing with Brattleboro and Keene, who have expositions on the same day.
- a. The banner is up in two places: Transfer Station & Fence in front of MBT Bank
  - b. Jeff did ask Carter Concrete and Rawson Construction, but they are not interested.
  - c. Doreen will be placing notices in the publications.
  - d. Fri. April 5<sup>th</sup> set up time is now 4:30pm.
5. **Childcare:** Doreen investigated some towns in Vermont and some additional ones in NH. It appears none of the towns sponsor childcare. They either depend on the school or regional district (mostly for Pre-K), or private enterprises. The conclusion is that the area towns depend on private enterprises for childcare. They do not sponsor it.
6. **American Legion:** Ron was informed that the letter was sent. Another one will be sent. But the conclusion was not revealed by the American Legion.

**Public Comment: None**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:35PM**

**Next Meeting:**

**March 28, 2024  
Town Hall Offices – 6pm  
McKeon Room**

**Respectfully submitted by  
Donna Roscoe, Secretary,  
March 14, 2024**