

Economic Development Committee
March 5, 2020

Present: John Pieper, Ron Rzasa, Faith Mba, Julianna Dodson, Judy Idelkope/Advisor

Absent: Chris Dufresne - Chair, Jeanny Aldrich/BOS Representative

Guests: Jeff Scott & Robert Korb

Meeting called to order: 5:00PM

Presiding: Ron Rzasa

Secretary Report: Approved

Ron moved and Faith seconded to approve the Feb 6, 2020 minutes

New Business

- 1. Southwest Regional Planning Commission:** Julianna, Ron and Jeff Scott met with Todd Horner of the SWRPC to discuss how the agency could assist the EDC in achieving its goals. Todd suggested that the EDC take part in the Monadnock Vital Economies program which helps communities develop plans, design policies, and implement strategies that advance locally determined economic goals. The EDC best match for this program was the proposed Business Networking Event. Although the SRPC won't provide funds for the event, they could provide advice in structuring it. Beside a completed application, a letter from the BOS showing governmental support was recommended. Julianna filled out the application and forwarded it to Jeanny Aldrich with a request for a BOS letter of approval. It was supposed to be presented to the BOS meeting on Wed. March 4th. No confirmation of that approval has been forthcoming. The application was due on Feb. 28th.

Ron motioned: "The EDC selects as its initial project with the SWRPC Vital Economies Program the Business to Business Event. John seconded. John proposed the following amendment: "Julianna has authorization to prepare the paperwork on behalf of the EDC." Ron seconded. The amended motion passed unanimously.

To take prompt action, it was decided that Julianna send the application in without the letter from the BOS, noting that it would follow. And, it was requested that she contact the Town Admin to request that the letter be scheduled on BOS agenda for the next meeting.

Welcome Package: The make-up of an effective package was also discussed with the SWRPC. Todd recommended that the committee look at the package Peterborough has put together for further ideas. Its location: <https://www.peterboroughworks.com/welcome/>

- 2. Senior Housing:** Ron has started to create a survey to be mailed out to town residents. It will be designed to help establish the needs, desires, and concerns about senior housing. He will have it ready by the next meeting.
- 3. Route 9 Beautification:** Ron proposed providing information on companies who will pay for junk cars or organizations that will take them. This information could be put on Facebook, in the Chesterfield Happening, etc. This would put a positive spin on the removal of junk cars throughout town without causing ill feelings.

4. **Seminars/Training:** The free workshops begin on April 7th. Information and registration can be found at: <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/event/2020-local-officials-workshop>
5. **Old Home Days:** The OHD committee has had its first meeting. Next meeting is March 26th. Ron motioned that “The EDC have a booth at Old Home Days.” John seconded; motion passed unanimously. Proposed ideas for the booth included:
 - a. Display our goals, explain who we are, and what resources we can provide. By expanding awareness, it may increase committee membership
 - b. Provide information about our featured businesses and make people aware of some of the small home businesses.
 - c. List of available commercial properties
 - d. Welcome new residents and provide them with the Welcome Package and information.

Old Business

1. **Town Meeting:** Chris will defend our budget request.
2. **Signage Petition:** The signage petition is in the process of being re-written. It won't appear on the ballot until next year. Julianna motioned: “The EDC would like John Pieper to work with the Planning Board on updating parts of the signage ordinance.” Ron seconded – motion passed unanimously.
3. **Welcome Letter:** It is still not known if Jeanny signed the letter
4. **EDC E-mail:** It was discussed that more than one person should monitor the EDC e-mail. John motioned that “Donna have access to the EDC e-mail”. Julianna seconded; motion passed unanimously. Donna is to ask Chris for the password.
5. **Access to Draft Minutes:** Judy asked that she be included when the agenda and draft minutes are sent out. This would keep her up to date with the workings of the EDC. There was some discussion about the legality of it. John made a motion “that Judy Idelkope and Jeff Scott be included in the Draft Minutes’ distribution list.” Ron seconded – motion passed unanimously.
6. **Business Cards:** Julianna had requested that members give her whatever personal information they wanted printed on their business cards. During the meeting, each member provided her with the information. Chris had already provided it.

Next Meeting Date
Thursday, April 2nd
Town Office Meeting Room – 5PM

Meeting Adjourned at 6:12PM (Ron 1st, Faith 2nd)

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna Roscoe, Secretary
March 5, 2020