

**Economic Development Committee**  
**September 10, 2020**

**Present: Ron Rzasa (Chair), Fran Shippee (BOS Representative), Robert Korb, Julianna Dodson, John Pieper, & Judy Idelkope (Advisor)**

**Absent: Faith Mba**

**Guests: Jeff Scott & Kate Day**

**Meeting called to order: 5:02PM via Zoom**

*COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically, etc.*

**Presiding: Ron Rzasa**

**Secretary Report: Minutes from the August 27, 2020**

Approved as written by unanimous role call

**Old Business**

1. **Welcome Package:** The BOS has approved the package and updated the BOS Welcome letter. However, it still needs the BOS signatures which Fran will get. Fran will check with Alissa Fox, Town Administrator, to see how far she has gotten on the new residents list. Recipients will be those listed in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Julianna, who has checked postal costs, will send out the packages. The committee considers this a living document. So, items like the Library Card, Wares Grove coupons, etc. can be added later. Julianna will place an electronic copy on the website for all residents to see.
2. **Chesterfield Business Listings:** Fran and John have been working this. Fran reformatted the town website list into a word document with 2 businesses on a page. John's list, from SW Regional, includes some businesses that were not in Fran's listings. As a result of the business plea requests, Ron has 4-5 business contacts which he will send to Fran. John and Fran will consolidate the lists into a user-friendly format. Julianna and Ron will work on creating a questionnaire.
3. **E-mail issue & Website:** Donna is still having difficulty with the Gmail account. Julianna has been checking the website's in-box and Chris Dufresne has been monitoring the EDC Gmail and promptly forwarding them. Julianna will coordinate with Chris and take over responsibility for the e-mails.
4. **Copper Cannon Sign:** John has heard nothing from Blake.
5. **Signage Petition:** Fran received the draft petition from John. She noted that others wanted changes too. However, due to the nature of the process, it was decided that EDC's petition would only reflect the zoning regulation change discussed by the committee. Fran & John will continue to work on it.
6. **Helping New Businesses:** Todd Horner from the SW Regional Planning Commission has put together some interview questions. Next week, Rob will get together with him and work on a draft questionnaire. Ron spoke with John McKeon about future business development. John is happy to assist the committee once his workload decreases.
7. **Commercial Listings:** Judy is still working on this. There are a variety of sources to get commercial listings, but most are ambiguous. It is questionable if commercial brokers will list their properties on the EDC website. Available properties are not listed by zoning. Thus, the only way to determine if they are commercial is by manually analyzing each one, a time-consuming process. Judy will send Julianna the MLS Commercial link for EDC website. Currently, there is only one property listed on it.

8. **Budget:** The 2021 Budget should be the focus of the next meeting. Fran will send out the last 3 years of budgets for the committee to review. The 2020 will list expenditures on each line item.
  - a. Julianna will send Ron the Welcome Package expenses for reimbursement.
9. **Website Hits:** The website is receiving traffic. It appears that the 1<sup>st</sup> page that people visit is the business feature blog. Hits are short in duration. It is important that website stay updated. December will be a good time to brainstorm over how to improve it.

**New Business:**

1. **Right to Farm Regulations:** No work has been done
2. **Potential business site:** Ron will investigate the cost of the 24 acres posted on Route 9. It might be a good location for senior housing.
3. **Marsh House:** Due to Covid 19 and the present business climate, the buyer has withdrawn his bid. Presently, a group is looking at alternative methods to market it. There may have to be adjustments made to the requirements for ownership. The historical features are deteriorating, which is driving up the cost of repairs, especially to the roof.
4. **October Meeting dates:** Thurs. Oct 8<sup>th</sup> & Thurs. Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Comment:**

1. **State Support:** Kate Day, who is running for State Representative, inquired about what type of support the EDC would like from the state level.
  - a. Senior Housing is greatly needed and falls under the EDC charge. It was suggested that the state make available grants for Rural Senior Housing. Presently, private developers seem to put the cost out of reach for most of Chesterfield's aging population. If the town or a non-profit would step in, that may lower the cost of the units. However, would the town want to become a landlord?
  - b. Small and middle size business incentives would be helpful. These are the type of business that the town residents desire.
  - c. She requested the EDC charge be sent to her.
2. Jeff Scott noted that Robert Korb name was not on the Town Website's EDC Board listing. Fran will notify Tricia to add it.

**Next Meeting Date**  
**Thursday, September 24, 2020**  
**Zoom meeting – 5PM**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30PM

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Donna Roscoe, Secretary  
September 10, 2020