

Economic Development Committee
December 3, 2020 - Final

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

Absent: Faith Mba

Guests: Jeff Scott, Kate Chase, Barbara Girs

Meeting called to order: 5:02 PM 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:

Nov 19, 2020 minutes

John 1st & Julianna 2nd: Accepted as amended with slight revisions to Marsh House presentation.

Old Business

1. **Welcome Package:** Packets have been distributed to newcomer listings through the end of October. Julianna is trying to develop a filtering system which will eliminate duplications and unnecessary mailings. For example, packets will not be mailed if the listing shows: The street number is 0 inferring it must be just land, transfers within the same family names, or transfers into a Family Trust. Even after using this method about 80 packets have been mailed.
2. **EDC Role Helping Businesses (Business Listings):** All the calls to the known businesses to verify their operation have been made. Fran has transferred the listing to Antje for placement on the website. Antje quoted a couple of hours work at \$40 per hour. After they are on the website, Julianna will try keep them updated. It will be important that any new businesses or old businesses that are contacted provide an e-mail address. These e-mails should be placed in a grouping so that future information can be sent out in bulk mailings. Hopefully, Antje or Julianna can accomplish this.
3. **Senior Housing:** Ron spoke with Executive Director, John Manning, and Chief Developmental Officer Keith Thibault of the Southwest Community Service Organization. They have been sent an invitation to the Dec. 17th EDC meeting. Ron asks the membership to be prepared with questions.
 - a. The 24.2 acres at the junction of Poor Road and Route 9 has been listed for \$229,000. It is owned by an investment company. Judy Idelkope shared screened the listing. The committee agreed that it looked like a promising spot for senior or workers housing.
4. **Signage Petition:** All members should mail their signed petitions to John Piper. Following proper protocol, he will compile them and present them to the Town Administrator who will in turn give them to the BOS. December 9th is the deadline for submitting it to the BOS. Copper Cannon petition has about 10 – 15 signatures. John will pick it up over the weekend and hand in all the petitions on Monday or Tuesday, Dec. 7, or 8th.
5. **Business to Business Event Jan. 28 – 6:30PM via zoom:** Kate Chase of Kate Chase Designs created a sample invitation to the event which can be sent out as a postcard. The committee approved it. The invitation will be sent out in an assortment of ways mail, handouts and posted on social media. It was decided that Kate would collect the RSVPs. Costs will be reimbursed through the town with submission of a request. The event hopes to create business community within Chesterfield that includes the big

and small operations. Hopefully, this will help with collaborations and keep the businesses in the loop about opportunities within the area.

6. **Letter to other Town Committees:** Fran sent it out to all the Boards and Chris Lord. There has been no feedback.
7. **EDC Website Update:** Julianna is slowly working her way through the website. The EDC portion of the town website needs improvements. The cost of improvement of the town website may go into the budget.
8. **Marsh House:** It was decided that the Committee will take a field trip to the Marsh House on Sunday, December 13 at 1pm.
9. **Business Features:** Julianna needs information to include in the business feature portion of the website. This could be done over the phone or via e-mail instead of person to person contact.

New Business:

1. **Events:** After the “all clear” signal is given, what ways can the EDC bring the town together?
 - a. Total Holiday Celebration: A costume party where participants come dressed in their favorite holiday costume
 - b. Jeff’s Pancake Breakfast Part II
 - c. Old Home Days
2. **Community of Consequences – Rebalancing NH Human Ecology** – a video by PBS. Viewing this was recommended for all members. It is about an hour long:
<https://video.nhpbs.org/show/communities-and-consequences/>

Public Comment

1. **Jeff Scott and Barbara Gris Marsh House Non-profit:** Jeff Scott emphasized that it would be easy to get community investment into the property. The non-profit wants to work in collaboration with the EDC. The non-profit is looking for a buyer while the EDC will facilitate the sale. The non-profit would work to put together a proposal with an entity that has the money. The EDC would work to see it to fruition. The non-profit is its own entity which the EDC does not control. Thus, any presentation would be made jointly to the BOS. One concern is that there be some rent or income from the property to cover expenses and to put toward maintenance in the present and future.
 - a. Options would be to have a community operated business run by volunteers or having a specific business, for example artists, who display their wares in exchange for space to show them.

Field Trip
Sunday Dec 13 – 1pm
Marsh House, Rt. 63, Chesterfield

Next EDC Meeting
Dec. 17 – 5pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna Roscoe, Secretary
December 3, 2020