

Economic Development Committee

March 11, 2021 - Final

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

Absent: Faith Mba

Guests: Jeff Scott & John Koopmann,

Meeting called to order: 5:03 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:

Feb. 25, 2021 Minutes

John 1st, Ron 2nd: Unanimously accepted as written.

Old Business

1. **Copper Cannon Food Truck:** Blake went before the planning board to discuss either putting in a small restaurant or bringing in a food truck. Apparently, a small vendor license would not work as it restricts number of days and is more geared towards festivals. Due to the large number of rules and regulations, numerous other issues were brought up. EDC has recommended Blake speak to Bo Foard for advice.
2. **Business Listings on Website:** After reviewing the business listings, Fran believes most are current.
 - a. **With Regards to the New Town Website:** Because EDC has its own website, the BOS would like to know if the EDC would prefer to continue to maintain its own website, or become a subpage on the town website, or just have a link provided to the EDC website from the town website. Ability to change and update the EDC website is the primary concern. Julianna recommended that the EDC talk to a marketing expert about which way would be better from a branding standpoint. While Julianna is doing this Fran asked her to get feedback on the quality of Revise and CivicPlus programs.
3. **Business to Business Summer Meeting:** Cooper Cannon has agreed to host the event. It is important that someone from EDC helps coordinates it. Julianna will ask Kate Chase if she would be willing to help again with the invitations. Ron volunteered to help with logistics, do some leg work and make phone calls.
4. **EDC Finances:** Thanks to John for assuming responsibility for keeping track of the EDC budget. The spread sheet he developed has been sent out to the committee. Please note that if an expense has no receipt, send a statement to John outlining the expenditures for his and Ron's review. Kate Chase should do this with the cost of stamps for the virtual business meeting. Julianna will contact her. The committee was using 2021 budgeted money from January until the town vote. This is standard procedure.
5. **Marsh House:** The Chesterfield Preservation Group (CPG) placement of the house on <https://www.cheapoldhouses.com/> has produced about 120 responses, most of which are unqualified. However, there are 3-4 proposals that may work. Proposals that enable the building to be used by the community are top priority. The Group asked Jon McKeon, who most knowledgeable on selling this house, to represent the CPG at the BOS meeting. The goal was to come up with a timeline that the BOS would be happy with and how to proceed. A timeline agreed on were:

- a. April 2nd – End date of acceptance of Proposals
 - b. April 21st – Selection of best proposal
 - c. May 1st – Close on the house (If all goes well, so keep your fingers crossed!)
 - d. Rob successfully talked to Corning about grants. The “Community Improvement Grant” would apply. The grants are small, around \$1000, but they do give them out. This should remain a top priority in case the present proposals fall through. It also would be enough for funding a community celebration after Covid restrictions end.
6. **Thank you to Todd Horner:** Julianna e-mailed a letter of appreciation to Todd’s supervisor. Ron got a call the next day from his supervisor thanking the committee for taking the time to acknowledge Todd’s work. Also, Todd contacted him thanking the committee.
 7. **Industrial Park:** Fran had no luck checking into the Bradford Machine Shop coming into the Industrial Park. Unless something happens to bring this up again, no further work will be done on this project.
 8. **Rules of Procedure:** Due to e-mail problems, Donna did not receive the revised version and could not send it out. This is tabled till the next meeting.
 9. **Sign petition:** The ordinance was rejected by the town. Although the wording can be fixed, to avoid a year’s delay, we should assist Blake in working on a variance. John will visit with Blake. Next year, the ordinance should be marketed so that folks can understand it better.

New Business:

1. **Right to Farm:** What is the State’s RSAs on this issue and are they adequate? With the influx of new residents it may be necessary to be proactive on reducing complains from possible new developments. It is believed that the town can make the regulations stricter but not more lenient. Fran will contact the town attorney about this issue.
2. **This Year’s Priorities:**
 - a. Follow up with Todd and Rob’s more in-depth questions to selective businesses. What will help in streamlining regulatory procedures? What actions can the town take to overcome the perception that it is not business friendly?
 - b. Work on the Rules of Procedure as it will guide the committee along on its mission.
 - c. Volunteer for or/and send members to *The Radically Rural Summit*, Sept 22 – 23. It is presently a hybrid event which Julianna is now the director. There are funds to attend. It will be very educational plus a good networking opportunity. The program has six educational tracks: Arts & Culture, Community Journalism, Entrepreneurship, Land & Community, Clean Energy, and Main Street. You can keep up to date on the developments via Facebook.

Due to a conflict, it was agreed that the March 25th meeting be canceled:

Next Meeting
Thursday, April 1, 2021
5Pm
Via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 5:58PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna Roscoe, Secretary March 11, 2021