

Economic Development Committee

April 22, 2021 - Final

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

Absent: Faith Mba

Guests: Jeff Scott

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:

As this was an extension of the April 15th meeting, the secretary's report was delayed till May 6.

Old Business

1. **Business mixer July 22nd:** Copper Cannon's attempt at a seasonal food truck fell through. Consequentially, Rob is looking into finding another possible food truck for the event. It is believed this would only require a one-day permit. If it rains, the event can be moved inside. Rob, Kate Chase, and Julianna are working on the promotional material.
2. **Business Time Restrictions:** The result of Kelli investigation is, if the business is in a business zone, there are none. However, residential zones do have restrictions.
3. **Commercial Buildings Availability:** There is a shortage of available commercial buildings in Chesterfield. Kellie inquired as to the status of the Spofford General Store on 9A which has been vacant for a long time. Julianna has done extensive research on the building and the parcel adjacent. It falls under Brownfields & Land Revitalization program. The current owner abandoned the property. Whoever purchases it would assume responsibility for the liability of future contamination. There has been extensive remediation done but there appears to be long lasting issues that must be addressed, i.e., replacement of water filters on neighboring houses every 3 months.
 - a. A tab could be placed on the EDC website about the building. Maybe a non-profit could address the issue in a similar way as the Marsh House.
4. **Business Survey:** Rob and Todd have been working on this. Due to the lack of building space, Todd advised to focus on people who are trying to start a business out of their homes. Back in November a script was written to use in contacting businesses. But due to Covid-19, using it was delayed. Ron started calling his list of businesses and is willing to help anyone else. He will send out the list again.
5. **Marsh House:** The BOS has selected a candidate and are in contract negotiations. Fingers crossed.
6. **Machine Shop:** Fran was able to confirm that the machine shop owner did purchase the land in the commercial park. However, its topography makes it difficult to build on.
7. **Business to Business Postage:** Kate Chase has been asked about submitting the postage for reimbursement. In that this has been done several times, it may be best to drop the subject.
8. **Peoples Bank Table:** The committee is interested in using the table so it can promote the summer mixer. A business directory and other promotional material could be displayed. Ron will look into Gem Graphics about printing a pamphlet with the business listings. John will look into the table's availability.

- a. On the Chesterfield Facebook page, there has been numerous requests for business recommendations. From the responses, new business listings could be found. They could be contacted and asked if they want to be in the Town directory. Ron volunteered to gather the information.
9. **EDC vs. Town Website:** Julianna was able to speak with a Marketing Expert at Hannah Grimes about either maintaining the Town's business listings on the Town or EDC website. Because of the size of the Town and lack of available business space, it was advised that the listing be kept on the Town's website.
 - a. BOS has been actively looking into updating the Town's website with CivicPlus. Input from the Town Committees would help with the formatting the pages before publishing. Also, the BOS is looking into a website that would have an easy way for the committees to update their own pages. The website would have 3 levels of support with one level being an approved committee member being responsible for updating that committee's page.
10. **Senior Housing:** Now that the BOS has a full board, it is time to proceed. Ron will contact Keith Thibault to see about his availability. Only the BOS can file for the block grant, so Kelli needs to be brought up to date. The minutes from Keith's meetings will be sent to her.
11. **Rules of Procedure:** The document that was amended on March 11 was gone over sentence by sentence. A question arose about the legality of EDC having impute on approval of a member. John will investigate. Also, how the staggering of appointments would be adjusted if someone resigns? This version will be sent Ron for further review. The draft will be reviewed at the next meeting. If approved, it will be sent to the BOS for their approval.

New Business:

1. **Radically Rural Program:** The EDC would like to help Julianna with this program. She recommended that money be allotted for members to attend. If members would like to volunteer their services in the operation of the event, that would be welcomed. Presently she is working on year-round programs which she hopes members would attend.
2. **Hacked:** The meeting was hacked into by a Gemma Watson and Zoey Belovich. The situation was obvious and handled. However, the question came up as to how to handle an unknown name that suddenly appears in the future. It is a public meeting. Should the Chair ask them to identify themselves? Kelli will see if there is an established procedure to handle this situation.

Adjourned

John moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:18pm; Rob seconded; Unanimously passed.

Next Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 2021
5Pm
Via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna Roscoe, Secretary
April 22, 2021