

Economic Development Committee

June 3, 2021 - Final

Present: Ron Rzasa (Chair), Julianna Dodson, John Pieper, Kelli Hanzalik (BOS Representative)

Absent: Faith Mba

Guests: Jeff Scott

Meeting called to order: 5:06PM 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 were unanimously approved for May 20th meeting (Julianna 1st, Ron 2nd)

Resignation: Robert Korb resigned from the committee on June 1st because of new job requirements

Old Business

1. **Quorum?** Consensus is an EDC quorum is the majority of the members. Therefore, there are now 5 members, a quorum would be 3. If there isn't a quorum, the meeting can go on but only with discussion as voting wouldn't be valid. Mary Ewell application to join the EDC has submitted to the BOS. Hopefully, it will be approved at the Jun 16th meeting so she can start on June 17th.
2. **Brownfield Issue:** Kelli spoke with John McKeon about the property. During his period on the BOS, the Town attorney strongly advised against the Town or any Town affiliate taking ownership of the property. The reasoning being, the Town should not assume the risk of acquiring the deed and thus the future unknown financial responsibility of the site.
 - a. How that the project is in Phase III, it is too costly for an individual to assume the risk. There was discussion about ways in which the Town could eliminate or control that risk.
 - i. Seek the advice of an Environmental Attorney who is more experienced in dealing with Brownfield sites. Other sites must have the same problem and came up with a solution.
 - ii. Is there a certain type of insurance that would reduce the risk enough to assure the town to take it on and complete Phase III?
 - iii. Once the financial risk is assessed, the BOS cannot act on it. It would have to be turned into a warrant article for a town vote.
 - iv. Julianna and Kelli will continue to explore solutions.
3. **Business Mixer:** Donna will be mailing out the postcards shortly. Once they are out, the event can be promoted via Facebook and word of mouth.
 - a. Paying Copper Cannon, a flat fee for the tastings and food truck seems the best approach. EDC would provide non-alcoholic beverages and snacks.
 - b. SWRPC's Todd Horner will be asked for input on the agenda.
 - c. Matt Beauregard will put together some information to encourage businesses to contact him with questions.
4. **Marsh House:** Public Meeting on Monday, June 7th with the Planning Board.

5. **Sign Petition:** After the voters defeated the sign regulation, John has volunteered to do a rewrite and put it in simpler terms. By following a better timeline, it can be done strictly by petition. After it is written, there should be a major outreach to publicize it and to clarify any misgivings.
6. **People's Table:** Rob had been in charge of it and sent this message: "The only thing I have done so far is to go to the bank and look at the table. There are very few materials needed, just some copies of the new resident packet that we are mailing to new residents, and a sign with the EDC URL and a QR code linking to it."
 - a. Doing something with the table will allow 3 weeks promotion of the business event. The mailer could be converted into promotional material.
 - b. There are only 150 cards, so 10 businesses have to be eliminated. Donna will send the business listing out for members to decide which ones to eliminate.
7. **Rules of Procedure:** On June 2nd, Ron presented the EDC Rules of Procedure to the BOS. It was noted that the EDC is not required by law to have Rules of Procedure. However, it is a good tool. Kelli sent Ron some information from the State that should be included. She also sent him information about determining a quorum. He will revise the document accordingly.
8. **Senior Housing:** On June 30th, The BOS will meet with SWC's Keith Thibault to discuss Senior Housing possibilities and procedures. The BOS requested the information already presented by Keith to review beforehand. Donna will send out the notes from Dec. 17, 2020, and Jan. 7, 2021, meetings.
9. **Code Enforcement:** Ron and Matt Beauregard met and started a discussion on how to streamline the process of getting a business/house concept through the Town regulation maze to reality. It was a good meeting, but it the work will take time.
10. **Radically Rural Sept 22 -23rd:** Julianna demonstrated how to navigate the event's website and briefly explained the sessions in the program tracks. The tracks Land & Community, Main Street, Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Culture would be the ones most applicable to EDC. Committee members are encouraged to go through the information and if interested select what sessions they would like to attend. These will be discussed at the next meeting. Early Bird registration is available through June 30th. Participants can participate in either virtual or in-person sessions. It was recommended that in-person is the most productive as this allows for networking which is the heart of the event. The webpage is: <https://radicallyrural.org/2021-program-tracks/>

New Business:

1. **Zoom or In-Person?** The Town is starting to require in-person meetings. If a hybrid would be possible hasn't been decided. It would greatly improve attendance. It was decided a zoom meeting would be scheduled in case a final decision puts the date of in-person meetings further out than June 12th.
To accommodate members schedules: 5:30pm will be the new EDC start time.

Public Comment: None

Adjourned

John moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30PM; Ron seconded; Unanimously passed.

Next Meeting
Thursday, June 17th
5:30PM
Town Office

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna Roscoe, Secretary
June 3, 2021

Final