

Economic Development Committee
May 20, 2021 - Final

Present: Ron Rzasa (Chair), Julianna Dodson, Faith Mba & John Pieper

Absent: Kelli Hanzalik (BOS Representative), Robert Korb

Guests: Jeff Scott & Mary Ewell

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 6th meeting (Julianna 1st, Faith 2nd)

Old Business

1. **Brownfield Issue:** Kelli and Julianna met to go over the Electrosonics site. Julianna has given Kelli a copy of the information she collected. The only phase left in remediation is phase 3. Julianna recommended that the town proceed with phase 3 as they have the resources to do it. Kelli is going to schedule a meeting with the town attorney, which Julianna will be invited to, to go over some of the issues in moving forward. Also, Julianna suggested meeting with an environmental attorney to see if there can be some way to release the town and/or potential future owner from future obligations related to the contamination.
 - a. To clarify: Electronsonics site is a brick building with a lot behind it, total of 2 lots, 409 & 411 Route 9A. It has been abandoned.
 - b. The Spofford General Store is next door and up to date with taxes. It is owned by Linda & Paight Kenyon, 60 Gove Street, Keene. Julianna will contact them about what future plans they have for the building.
2. **Business Mixer July 22nd:** Julianna designed a postcard invitation to be mail out to the businesses listed on the website. It states that EDC will provide snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and a Copper Cannon Tasting. Copper Cannon is arranging a food truck that will provide meals at the visitor's expense.
 - a. Having free tastings included creates a question of liability. It was suggested that an attorney be contacted to clarify, especially if they are given out for "free" which may fall under another provision in the law.
 - b. Would the liability be the same if Copper Cannon gave out free tasting and EDC gave a donation to them afterward?
 - c. Also, there is possibility of paying Copper Cannon as a contractor and letting the tasting fall under their license. Julianna will look into these issues.
 - d. It was determined that EDC has the funds to cover the event expenses.
3. **Radically Rural Sept 22 -23rd:** Early Bird tickets are available now until the end of June. The EDC is considering sending representatives to it. An Early Bird ticket allows the purchaser to select a track of interest. Later, ticket holders will be notified about the individual sessions in more detail. At that time, they can pick their sessions regardless of the track they originally selected. It was decided to discuss this in detail at the next meeting when there is a full board present.

4. **Marsh House:** There will be a Public Hearing on Monday June 7th at 7:30pm to go over New England Heritage's proposal.
5. **Thomas Property Availability:** At the present time, Dave Gale is beginning work on changing the zoning from Residential to Commercial.
6. **Spofford Golf Course Restaurant:** There are rumors, but the proceedings are not publicly known.
7. **Peoples Bank July Table:** Tabled
8. **Rules of Procedure:** The BOS will not be able to look at it until mid to late June.
9. **Senior Housing:** Ron contacted Keith Thibault of SWC who is eager to move forward sometime in late June. It is now a matter of getting the time on the BOS agenda.

New Business:

1. **Meeting with Matt Beauregard:** Ron and Matt will be meeting to work on how to smooth out the process of getting a business/house concept through the town regulation maze to reality. Matt is hoping to develop a way to help folks with complicated questions. This will require multiple conversations.
2. **Mary Ewell:** The board was excited to have Mary show interest in joining it. Most know her and unanimous consensus was she would be an asset. She was advised to send a letter to the BOS requesting placement noting she is being recommended by the Board.

Adjourned

John moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:52pm; Faith seconded; Unanimously passed.

**Next Meeting
Thursday, June 3rd
5Pm
Via Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted by,
Donna Roscoe, Secretary
May 20, 2021