

Economic Development Committee
January 20th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Bill Dowey, Vice Chair Bruce Dorner, Paul Bemis, Wayne Anderson, Carolyn Shulman, and Nancy Spears

Also Present:

Hector Hsu, Britta Hallberg, and Jamie Bemis.

Call to Order:

With all members remote and Ms. Wharton in the town office, Mr. Dowey called the “zoom” based meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Approval of November and December Minutes by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Spears. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Old Business/ New Business:

Introduction:

Mr. Dowey introduced Britta Hallberg, a potential EDC member.

Marketing presentation announcement/details:

Mr. Dorner discussed working with Britta Hallberg and Grafton Development group to address the need of marketing assistance for the businesses in town. There will be a meeting January 27th to discuss more details and come up with a plan. Notices regarding marketing adaptations have been posted on the Town website, Facebook, and through emails. Mr. Dorner stated that the Fiber project article from the Union Leader has generated a lot of publicity for the town and this is a great time to continue to build on working relations with Newfound Independent businesses. Mrs. Spears stated that many businesses are closing much of the week and only opening on Fridays and Saturdays or reduced hours due to losses created by the pandemic. Many are reevaluating their situations and circumstances during this slow time to be successful in the spring and summer with the hope of more business.

Affordable Housing/Business Revolving Loan Fund:

Mr. Bemis along with Ms. Jamie Bemis presented a PowerPoint regarding affordable housing and the possibility of forming the Bristol Housing Revitalization Program. Some goals of the program would be to restore and rehabilitate distressed housing in Bristol along with creating a replica model and revolving fund for these housing projects. State Programs that could be of assistance are NH Community Development Funding Association and the NH Housing. Once properties and financial resources have been identified, the next step would be to connect with interested homeowners and then finalize details of ownership and mortgage terms. Mr. Dowey asked Mr. Anderson if this is something that needs to be brought to the Select Board. Mr. Anderson replied yes, stating that projects that being worked on by the EDC need to be brought up to Select Board for guidance or suggestions.

Survey EDC members on economic development priorities:

Mr. Dowey will be pursuing the Freudenberg robotics project and building on the PSU relations. Ms. Bemis will be working alongside EDC members Mr. Bemis, Mrs. Shulman, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Hsu to create the Bristol Revitalization Program Committee along with tackling affordable housing within Bristol.

Member Comments/Select Board Comments & Staff Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:06pm by Mr. Bemis, seconded by Mrs. Shulman. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Wharton