

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Town Hall 16 School Street

Allentown, New Hampshire 03275

January 27, 2021

The January 27, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:42 pm.

Chair Frascinella read a statement establishing authority to hold an electronic meeting, along with remote viewing and listening guidelines.

As Chair of the Allentown Economic Development Committee, I, Mike Frascinella, find that, due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, except for limited space at Town Hall, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means: We are utilizing a Conference Call line (603-485-7321, password 1234), and a Zoom connection can be made by clicking on the Zoom website. As a courtesy, we are also on Facebook Live. All members of the Economic Development Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through one of these platforms, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting. If anybody has a problem, please call 207-595-0310 or email at: dgoodine@allentownnh.gov. If the public is unable to access the meeting, it will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Chair Frascinella called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mike Frascinella, Scott McDonald, Chad Pelissier
Jeffrey Venegas was absent.

Town Staff: Derik Goodine, Town Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

▪ Veteran Suicides Awareness

Chair Frascinella reported that Matt Seiler presented a proposal to the members of the Select Board on Monday, January 25th to display 660 small flags on the Police Department lawn, representing the 660 veterans who commit suicide every month. The display of flags will remain for 30 days.

- **Inspect Welcome Banners**

Chair Frascinella asked the Committee members to inspect the Welcome Banners, which arrived recently. He said that these banners measure 24" X 48", as compared with first one which is 18" X 36". They were made by Sign World in Pennsylvania, with double thickness and printing on both sides. They will be displayed at the entrances to the town, Fire Department, Police Department and Schools. Matt Seiler of Hometown Heroes, he said, hooked him up with a great source for hardware. The banners cost \$67.50 each, versus the earlier quote of \$100.00, and the price includes the hardware. The banners will go up in the Spring, along with the American flags on School and Main Streets and the four Hometown Heroes banners on School Street. He said that he contacted Eversource, and they want maps indicating the locations of the flags and banners.

Mr. Pelissier said that he likes the banners, and he agreed to identify the poles.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2021 Projects**

Chair Frascinella said that he would like to review the proposed 2021 projects and make decisions about which ones to work on. He asked the Committee members to consider having Allenstown facemasks to sell at Town Hall. He suggested using something from the Welcome Signs, such as the Town Seal or the Bears.

Mr. Pelissier cautioned that it is best to keep the printing in black and white and very small; otherwise, the masks will be heavy and it will be hard to breathe.

Chair Frascinella said he wanted the seal to be 2.5 to 3 inches.

Mr. McDonald said he would look into it. He suggested a slogan: 'Allenstown: A good place to live.'

Chair Frascinella said that the town already has a slogan: 'Home of Bear Brook State Park.'

Chair Frascinella next brought up the subject of concerts. He said they should talk about how many they should have, when they should schedule them, and who they should have for bands. He said he has had one request to have the Cajun band back again. He also suggested that they try to get Nicole Murphy, as suggested by Mr. Pelissier. Once we get past the fear of the virus, he said, he would like to ask Mr. Venegas about having the ARD chorus perform, perhaps as a warm-up for a half hour.

Mr. McDonald said it would be good to have a local band comprised of young people in the area.

Chair Frascinella said that would be good because all of their friends would come.

Mr. Goodine said he knows a man in Pembroke, Chris Taylor, who plays music of the 1990's and 2000's. He is about 48 years old.

Chair Frascinella said he would like to have a Crazy Steve-type.

Mr. Pelissier said that Nicole Murphy sings 'anything and everything.'

Mr. McDonald said they could add a third concert and have a couple of movie nights between the concerts.

Chair Frascinella suggested a concert in late May, another in mid-July and a third in mid-September. For movies, he said they should be rated PG.

Mr. Goodine said they would have to wait until late summer when it gets dark earlier, or else they would have to start the movie at 9:00 pm.

Mr. Pelissier suggested showing Secondhand Lions, a great comedy with appeal to all ages.

Chair Frascinella suggested Flight of the Navigator.

Mr. Goodine said he would like to have a spectacular event, such as a street dance.

Mr. Pelissier said he likes the idea of a Corn Hole tournament, as suggested by Mr. Venegas.

Mr. Goodine said people could sell arts and crafts. He also suggested asking United Site Services to supply a porta potty for each concert. He said it would give them publicity in the community.

Mr. McDonald suggested that October Sky would be a good movie. He said that he really likes the idea of a Corn Hole tournament.

Mr. Goodine said he would like to show Pinocchio or Iron Giant.

Mr. McDonald said that he wants to work on an Honor Roll because it should be done. He also said it irks him that the residents of Allentown can't get discount passes to Bear Brook State Park when the Park occupies half of the land in the town. They should give our residents passes, he said, and he will speak to Representative Matt Pitaro about this.

Mr. Pelissier said that one-third of the Highway Department's resources in the winter are used plowing that State road.

Mr. McDonald pointed out that the town is buying Forestry vehicles, mainly for rescues in the Park.

Chair Frascinella said that the Park had planned to have a First Day celebration and ended up with a 'Do It Yourself' day.

Chair Frascinella next brought up the boat launch, saying they had previously discussed a carved fishing bear, picnic tables and fireplaces.

Mr. Goodine said they should have two sections of docks in the water.

Mr. Pelissier agreed.

Mr. Goodine asked if the water level changes.

Mr. Pelissier said it is low this year because of the mild winter. It doesn't change significantly, he said.

Mr. Goodine said the dock should be sturdy. He said composite wood should be used because it won't fade or create splinters. He asked Mr. Pelissier about the current.

Mr. Pelissier said there is some at times, but it is not too bad.

Mr. Pelissier said that his department has a lot of paving to do because some jobs have been put off, but he will try to clean up the boat launch area.

Chair Frascinella next brought up the subject of rebuilding the gazebo. Mr. Venegas told him the wood has dry rot. He said they should have a larger one because the bands are crowded.

Mr. McDonald said they should start with an elevated platform.

Mr. Pelissier said that metal is now cheaper than wood.

Mr. McDonald asked if a local contractor could get a tax break for building it.

Mr. Goodine said he wished they could, but it is not possible.

Chair Frascinella said that if labor is donated, they could post a sign to give proper credit.

Mr. Pelissier said there should be two steps leading up to the gazebo floor so that all attendees can see the band.

Mr. McDonald said he would like to pursue the skating rink at ARD; a single person is blocking it.

Mr. Pelissier said that the model that can be easily set up and taken down could go on the Town Hall lawn.

▪ **Strip Mall**

Mr. Goodine said that a strip mall may be developed in Allenstown. He asked the Committee members what types of businesses they would like to see there.

Mr. McDonald said he would like to see a sit-down restaurant.

Mr. Goodine suggested a fast-food restaurant with a sit-down area. He said that TD Bank is leaving Allenstown, so perhaps a bank would want to locate there. He said that an office with shared space might be a good tenant.

Chair Frascinella said a credit union or a local bank such as Merrimack County Savings would be good.

Mr. McDonald said a drive-thru Dunkin Donuts would be great.

Mr. Goodine said that was a given.

Mr. McDonald next suggested something like a Convenient Med Stop.

Mr. Pelissier noted that, with the Optimus facility being developed, a business geared for seniors would be good.

Chair Frascinella suggested an auto parts store.

Mr. McDonald said a liquor store would be good.

Mr. Goodine told him that Epsom is going to have one soon. He said a Grub Hub might be a good idea. Parking, he said, would dictate the feasible tenants.

Mr. McDonald suggested an indoor shooting range.

Mr. Pelissier presented the idea of a gym or a karate studio.

Mr. McDonald asked about the land purchased by Allenstown Aggregate which the School had wanted.

Mr. Goodine said he thought they wanted to put housing there.

Mr. McDonald asked if it would be Workforce or Section 8 housing.

Mr. Goodine said that would involve a zoning change, because it is zoned industrial.

Mr. Pelissier said that the ZBA has consistently protective of industrial and commercial parcels, as they are scarce.

Mr. Goodine said that perhaps the Sewer Department would think of expanding their service, given that they will have \$800,000 in new fees from China Mill and Optimus.

Mr. Pelissier said that he should meet with the members of the Allenstown Sewer Commission (ASC).

Chair Frascinella suggested a shop for repairs of small engines.

Mr. Goodine said that some communities create industrial parks with water and sewer already available. Impact fees, he said, can cover a lot of the costs of the development.

Mr. Pelissier suggested a bakery or an ice cream shop.

Chair Frascinella said a bakery with some seating would be nice. People could sit and enjoy pastries and coffee. He also suggested a pet supplies store with grooming services or a tax accountant.

Mr. McDonald said having a drycleaner would be nice.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting. Mr. Pelissier seconded the motion.

Chair Frascinella called for a roll call vote on the motion.

Scott McDonald – aye

Chad Pelissier - aye

Michael Frascinella – aye

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Goodine said that the August meeting minutes need to be signed in HelloSign.

SCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING

Chair Frascinella set February 10, 2021 as the date of the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pelissier made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion.

Chair Frascinella called for a roll call vote on the motion.

Scott McDonald – aye


Chad Pelissier - aye

Michael Frascinella – aye


The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

**SIGNATURE PAGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 27, 2021**

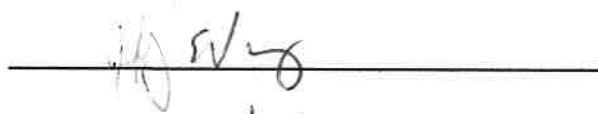
Michael Frascinella, Chairman


Date signed 3/10/2021


Chad Pelissier, Member


Date signed 3/10/2021

Jeffrey Venegas, Member


Date signed 3/10/2021

Scott McDonald, Member


Date signed 3/10/2021