

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Town Hall 16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
January 29, 2020

The January 29, 2020 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:46 pm. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mike Frascinella, Chad Pelissier, Scott McDonald, Jeffrey Venegas

OLD BUSINESS

- **EDC 2019 Report for Town Report:** Submitted on Jan 13, 2020.

Chair Frascinella stated that he submitted the EDC 2019 Report for the Town Report on January 13th. He said that he mostly used information from his webpage and added a list of the Committee's activities for the year.

- **Online Business Directory:** Any recent additions?

No one reported new additions.

- **Hometown Heroes Banners:** Contacted Armand Verville for help identifying veterans from WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War for EDC-sponsored banners. It may be difficult. The Committee may need to reissue the invitation to residents regarding sponsoring a banner.

Chair Frascinella said that Armand Verville had some information going back to the American Revolution. The list stops with World War II. He said there are five or six pages, with the repetition of some names. They are mostly from World War II. Mr. Frascinella suggested that the Committee might buy some banners for those killed in action. He will check with the Veterans Council in Manchester to see what information they might have. There might be a problem, he said, if the Committee pays for some banners and the families pay for others.

Mr. Venegas suggested paying for one from each conflict.

Mr. Pelissier said that the limited research he did with Town Reports reveals that two generals died in action during World War II.

Chair Frascinella said that maybe they should do World War II and forward.

Mr. Pelissier suggested having fliers or brochures about this program available at the Deliberative Session and the Town Election.

Chair Frascinella said that perhaps he could borrow a banner from Matt Seiler, since he stores them during the winter.

- **Allenstown Pole Banners:** Review map of Main Street with streetlights marked and decide where to place US flags and Welcome Banners. Discuss any contact with Signworld as a possible vendor. Determine number of banners and flags to order and whether current reserve fund balance is sufficient.

Mr. Pelissier displayed the information he has gathered, noting that the poles with blue stars are the ones with lights, and "X" marks the poles without lights.

Chair Frascinella said perhaps they should place an American flag on every second or third lighted pole on Main Street. That would be eleven flags. He asked if they were still high-pressure mercury lights.

Mr. Pelissier said they are all LED lights. He said the challenge is to get the information out, perhaps at Old Home Day.

Mr. Venegas said they could also have information available at their concerts.

Mr. Pelissier suggested 8 1/2" by 11" fliers.

Chair Frascinella said he would make them. He also said he would check the balance in their capital reserve account and ask Mr. Goodine to send out another email blast.

Mr. Pelissier said that Facebook would be a good way to get information to the people.

- **2020 Concerts:** *Green Heron* booked for an August 4th Bluegrass concert. Is anyone booked for a May concert?

Chair Frascinella said that *Green Heron* is available on August 4th, which is a Sunday. They charge \$300 for a two-hour concert.

Mr. Pelissier said he would get in touch with Nicole Murphy.

Chair Frascinella said that Trish Caruso suggested a band called *Last Duo*. He listened to one of their songs and was thoroughly impressed. They play vintage 60s music and charge \$400 for two hours. He said they need to make a decision about the June concert at the next meeting.

- **Walking Tour of Historic Homes:** Contacted Armand Verville for information about downtown historic homes. He and Claudette will work on this. A booklet is to be compiled that residents can use for a self-guided walking tour.

Chair Frascinella said that Armand and Claudette Verville have a small, old pamphlet with a brief history of some of the old houses in Allenstown. He said some of the details are cryptic. He said he would like to locate some old photos.

Mr. Venegas said the Senior Center has some cool pictures.

Chair Frascinella said that, for every historic piece of property and old house, it would be great to have a photo and a write-up, with then and now comparisons. The booklet could be available from Town Hall or on line.

Mr. Pelissier said that Pittsfield did the same thing and it was very popular.

Mr. Venegas said it would be great for the schools to use the tour as part of their curriculum.

- **New Business in Town:** The Planning Board approved the site plan for Hooksett Rent-a-Tool on January 15th. This is another win for economic development.

Chair Frascinella said that this is another small business for Allenstown. It provides a needed service and was located in Hooksett for a long time.

- **Optimus Senior Living:** Their representative may be presenting their site plan to the Planning Board on February 5th.

Chair Frascinella said that this proposal for Assisted Living involves three levels of care from independent living to daily care to memory care. It is a \$16 million investment, will provide between 50 and 70 jobs in the area, and should contribute a million dollars a year to the area economy via the purchase of goods and services. When asked why they chose Allenstown, their representative said the location between two large cities – Concord and Manchester – was a big factor. They also like the way they have been welcomed to Allenstown. It is also great that they are five miles from a major State Park. He added that they need some ZBA variances before proceeding.

Mr. Venegas said that the buildings are nice, and it would be good to get before and after pictures of this development.

Mr. Pelissier agreed that the buildings are decent, and he added that Optimus is not new to this business. In the same area, he said that 36 acres of land is for sale north of the business park off of Lavoie Drive.

Mr. McDonald asked if the State might grant access from Route 28.

Mr. Pelissier said they would not, but perhaps they should think about building a town road. He also said it might be time to contact Market Basket again, since there has been a lot of development since they last looked at Allenstown.

- **China Mill Apartments:** Brady Sullivan is to present draft plans to the Planning Board on February 19th.

Chair Frascinella provided an update on the China Mill redevelopment. He said that the original plan called for one and two-bedroom apartments but they are now looking at having some three-bedroom units. Also, the square footage of the apartments was going to be 600 square feet but they are now planning on 1,000 square feet.

Mr. Pelissier said that the plans are fluid.

Chair Frascinella said there might be a minimal amount of commercial development too.

- **BOS Proclamations for Retiring Health Professionals:** Presented by Mr. McDonald at the last meeting.

Mr. McDonald said he received positive feedback when he presented the idea of honoring Dr. Albee and Dr. Hevern in some way as they retire. He said Dr. Hevern contributed a lot to youth athletics. The idea of a proclamation was well-received by the BOS.

Mr. Pelissier said that Town Clerk has Gold Seals which can be embossed.

Mr. McDonald asked if there is a Lions Club in Allenstown.

Mr. Pelissier responded that there is not one anymore.

Mr. Venegas said that a Rotary Club is being formed.

Mr. Pelissier said that youth sports are struggling. He said the Deliberative Session might be a good time to talk about Parks & Rec and try to get people involved, especially if they have children who want to be involved in sports.

Mr. Venegas said it would be good just to work on fundamentals.

New Business

- **2020 Projects:** Identify any other projects for which planning needs to begin.

No new projects were identified at this meeting.

- **Review Previous Meeting Minutes:** Review and approve minutes for Oct. 1, 2019 and Jan. 8, 2020.

Chair Frascinella said that minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

- **Schedule the next meeting:** Feb.12, 2020

Chair Frascinella scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

Adjournment

Mr. Pelissier made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Mr. Venegas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 29, 2020

Michael Frascinella, Chairman



Date signed

2/12/2020

Chad Pelissier, Member



Date signed

Feb 12, 2020

Jeffrey Venegas, Member

Date signed

Scott McDonald, Member



Date signed

FEB 12, 2020

Maureen Higham, BOS Ex-Officio Member

Date signed