

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Town Hall

16 School Street

Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275

November 28, 2018

The November 28, 2018 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:35 pm. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Mike Frascinella, Chad Pelissier, Jeffrey Venegas

**Old Business**

- **Skating Rink: Determine whether the Committee can develop a GoFundMe site or some other method to raise funds to purchase one of the commercial skating rinks identified at the last meeting. Discuss new vendors.**

Chair Frascinella stated that at the last meeting the Committee was leaning toward a commercial skating rink as opposed to a homemade one. NiceRinks was considered. He asked if anyone could suggest any others for comparison.

Mr. Venegas said that NiceRinks was the least expensive.

Chair Frascinella said that NiceRink's cost was \$5,200. He asked if they should be considering a GoFundMe page.

Mr. Venegas said that the Budget Committee was fine with a warrant article in the amount of \$15,000 for the Economic Development Committee projects.

Chair Frascinella said that the funds from the warrant article, if it passes, will be too late for the skating rink, but might be used for the new welcome signs.

Mr. Venegas told the Committee members that he, Gary Laflamme and Ron Cox are joining forces to resurrect the Parks & Rec Committee. Projects such as the skating rink and the skateboard park could be undertaken by this group, in conjunction with this Committee.

- **Skate Board Park: Jeff Venegas is to report on whether successful contact was made with St. John's Church about using their vacant lot for the skate park. Chad Pelissier is to determine whether they can use the Highway Department shed as a work site on Saturday mornings.**

Mr. Venegas reported that he has not yet made contact with the St. John's Church. He added that fencing is the only immediate cost. Security cameras and lighting have been discussed but do not have to be funded right away.

Mr. Pelissier said there could be a problem with storage space at the Highway garage, particularly when vehicles and equipment must be stored inside when the weather is cold.

Mr. Venegas said that they should at least get the skate board equipment stored somewhere near the building so that it can be assessed.

Mr. Pelissier said he would talk with Ronnie Pelissier, the Road Agent.

Mr. Venegas said that the School Department might be interested in the convent, if the church wants to sell it.

- **Online Business Directory: Discuss the results of the mass mailing to town business owners, which encouraged business owners to sign up for the online directory.**

Chair Frascinella stated that the response is disappointing so far. The website is not growing very fast.

- **Town Signs: Chair Frascinella is to report on a field trip to a wood carver in Salisbury who carved the animals in Bear Brook State Park. Review the signs features and settle on a design and slogan.**

Chair Frascinella said that the two sign companies they have been working with so far are ProSource in Derry and Advantage Signs in Concord. He said that he met with Clayton George, a master woodcarver in Salisbury. Mr. George did all of the Bear Brook carvings and one at the Flume. Mr. George said that a seven-foot tall bear carving would cost between \$800 and \$1,000. Three-foot tall cubs would be only \$300 each. He suggested putting the smaller cub carvings on the edges of the signs as opposed to the tall bears as posts, because of the expense. Chair Frascinella noted that the current signs are 24 X 40 feet and six feet off the ground. He asked if they should contact the DOT about their plans to change the signs.

Mr. Venegas asked if they should be concerned about the signs being stolen.

Mr. Pelissier said that the town's liability insurance would cover that.

Chair Frascinella asked what should be on the sign besides the Town seal.

Mr. Pelissier said that the seal looks fine. Allenstown should be in large letters, and Bear Brook State Park should be on the sign.

Chair Frascinella added that the Town website should be on the sign.

Mr. Venegas raised the possibility of finding sponsors who would plant flowers around the signs.

Chair Frascinella reported that the quote from ProSource in Derry is \$2,500 for the sign, posts and installation. They would use standard posts with vinyl sleeves. Adding the cost of the bear cub carvings, the Committee could procure three signs for about \$9,000. He asked about color preferences – blue or green for the background and white or gold lettering.

Mr. Venegas said that green with white lettering would be nice because those are the school colors.

Mr. Pelissier suggested that smaller signs in other locations could have the same theme with only one bear cub. He said that Spring would be the best time to install the signs.

Mr. Venegas concurred, saying they could be ordered now and ready for installation in the Spring.

Mr. Pelissier suggested getting two more quotes for the bear carvings. The Town's purchasing policy might require that.

Chair Frascinella said he was not able to locate another source.

Mr. Pelissier said he would check around.

Mr. Venegas, returning to the skating rink project, said that NiceRink might have some suggestions for fundraising to help defray the cost of the rink.

Chair Frascinella suggested that they have for the Town Meeting pictures of the proposed signs, so that residents can see what they are working on to improve the image of the town.

Mr. Venegas said that the Town Hall should have a sign, perhaps an electronic one like the school.

Mr. Pelissier said that people don't like the electronic sign, and it would not be in keeping with the 'old town hall' motif. He added that the Planning Board makes a huge effort to ensure that lighting for proposed projects is not offensive to surrounding property owners.

- **Funding for Projects: The Town Administrator got approval from the BOS for Article 11, setting up an Economic Capital Reserve Fund of \$15,000.**

(Discussed under other headings.)

- **Guide to Starting a Business: Discuss any progress on this task.**

Chair Frascinella said that he took a stab at this by taking a guide prepared in Derry and rewriting the first two paragraphs. The idea is to let prospective developers and businesses know what forms are needed and to outline the steps they will need to take for approval.

Mr. Pelissier said that it should be specific to Allenstown and not just about what is required at the State level.

Mr. Venegas suggested a packet of information for prospective businesses, including the names of town officials and others they might need to contact.

Chair Frascinella stated that his wife suggested buying daffodil bulbs with a quantity discount and offering them to residents in the Fall. By Spring, there would be daffodils everywhere!

Chair Frascinella asked about having a block party – closing off the main street and providing entertainment and food.

Mr. Venegas added that they might do a concert series, with music from a variety of genres which would appeal to all age groups.

Mr. Pelissier said that the food vendors could be charged to participate and they could have games for the kids.

## **New Business**

None.

**Review Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair Frascinella said that there were no minutes to approve.

**Schedule the next meeting**

Chair Frascinella suggested holding one meeting in December on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Mr. Pelissier, duly seconded by Mr. Venegas, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

SIGNATURE PAGE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 28, 2018

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Michael Frascinella, Chairman

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_



Chad Pelissier, Member

Date signed 12/12/18

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Jeffrey Venegas, Member

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

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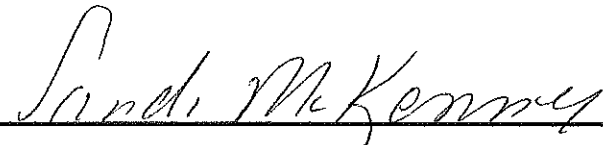
Thomas Kaempfer, Member

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

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Ryan Carter, BOS Ex-Officio Member

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_



Sandra McKenney, BOS Ex-Officio Alternate Member

Date signed 12-12-18