

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Town Hall 16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
February 26, 2020

The February 26, 2020 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:39 pm. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mike Frascinella, Chad Pelissier, Scott McDonald, Jeffrey Venegas, Maureen Higham

OLD BUSINESS

- **Proclamations for Retiring Doctors:** Dr. Hevern received his proclamation at the February 24th BOS meeting. Dr. Albee is in Florida till May.

Mr. McDonald reported that the Proclamation went well at the Selectboard meeting. It was covered by the Union Leader and the Concord Monitor. Sadly, he said, Dr. Hevern suffered a serious heart attack last week and is recovering.

Chair Frascinella said he put together an article about Dr. Hevern for the press.

- **Hometown Heroes Banners:** Still working on a source for names of Allenstown combat veterans from WWII forward.

Chair Frascinella reported having no luck procuring a list of the names of veterans who died in the wars since World War II.

Mr. Pelissier said that many of the families may have moved from Allenstown, so polling might not produce many results.

Mr. McDonald said he had found a few websites with information for Suncook. He will continue to research these.

- **Allenstown Welcome Banners and US Flags:** Ms. Higham will report on contact with Signworld as a possible vendor. Mr. Pelissier and Chair Frascinella will report on their study of locations for US flags and welcome banners. Committee will review their suggested locations. Finalize the number of flags and banners to order. (Note: Our Capital Reserve Fund balance is about \$2,000.) Determine a vendor and cost for US flag kits (3x5 ft.).

Mr. Pelissier said that he and Chair Frascinella used a map provided by the Sewer Department via their asset management software program, Viewworks. He said that they concluded that flags should be placed at every other light on Main Street. He asked about placing welcome banners at each of the Town boundaries. Two coming in from Pembroke would be Al's Avenue and the beginning of School Street.

Ms. Higham said that the new welcome signs say that already.

Mr. Pelissier said that the biggest thing is the number. He asked about placing them on River Road and at the ballparks.

Chair Frascinella asked if they could get a better price from Signworld by ordering a large quantity. He said they would be placing two along the Suncook Bridge at Al's Avenue and School Street. He asked if the schools might still want banners.

Mr. Venegas said that they would and offered suggestions for placement.

Mr. Pelissier suggested having one at the entrance to Bear Brook State Park.

Chair Frascinella noted that banners would be less costly than welcome signs. He said they would be put away from November until May and thus should last several years. He suggested placing banners at the ends of Deerfield Road and Mt. Delight, as well as at the top of New Rye Road. If they order ten, he said, that would cost about \$500. Regarding US flags, he suggested placing six on School Street and six on Main Street. All would be on poles with lights.

Mr. Venegas asked about the business district, since a majority of the businesses are there and lots of people pass through the town there.

Mr. Pelissier said he didn't know what to do there but agreed they should consider something.

Chair Frascinella said that US flags from Flagworks in Concord would cost about \$40 or \$50. They are good quality flags, with embroidered stars and stitched stripes.

Mr. Pelissier asked if he had made contact with anyone in Pembroke.

Chair Frascinella said he is waiting for Melaine Boisvert to return from vacation.

- **2020 Concerts:** Contacted three musicians for possible May concert. Music samples sent separately.

Chair Frascinella showed videos of various performers. He said that Crazy Steve was available any Sunday in May except for Memorial Day weekend. The cost is only \$200, compared with some which are \$300 and \$400. Also, he is a known quantity. He suggested May 17th for the concert, with plans to use ARD in the event of rain.

Mr. Venegas said he will talk with Lisa, the custodian at ARD. He added that she is interested in serving on the Parks & Rec Committee.

Chair Frascinella reminded the Committee that Green Heron, the bluegrass group, is scheduled for August. He said the Committee would have the task of changing the date on the lawn signs.

- **Walking Tour of Historic Homes:** Review initial booklet design and determine which historic sites to include.

Chair Frascinella said he hopes to get digital copies of the old photographs from Armand Verville. One photo, he said, is of all of the workers at China Mill. He said that initially they should limit the tour to historic sites in Allenstown. He said that the tour would start at Town Hall, which was a grade school in the 1880's. He shared the guidebook he is developing. It will have

an introduction, a list of sites, and a map. Next, on facing pages, would be old and current pictures of the site.

Mr. Venegas said the schools could take the tour on National History Day.

Chair Frascinella said that the bosses from China Mill lived on Main Street and the workers lived in tenement homes elsewhere. As an action item for Committee members, Chair Frascinella asked that they review his booklet and suggest additions or deletions

- **China Mill Apartments:** Brady Sullivan presented a preliminary design to the Planning Board on February 19th. The design included 1-, 2- and 3- bedroom units, which could impact the school system.

Chair Frascinella said that, when first proposed, Brady Sullivan's plan was for one-bedroom units, but now they are proposing 17 three-bedroom units, and a majority of the units will have two bedrooms.

Mr. Venegas said that demographically, mobile homes would be more likely to have children. He said Allenstown is fortunate that the site is being developed and the Town should accommodate them.

Mr. Pelissier agreed, saying that Brady Sullivan is one of a very few developers who undertake these types of projects, and the pictures of their other facilities are impressive. He said the plan is awesome and should spur economic activity. Without this development, China Mill would most likely not be renovated at all. And, there will have to be an economic impact study because the plan is for substantially more than 20 units.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Parks & Rec Committee:** Discuss possible volunteers and collaboration with EDC – Mr. Venegas.

Mr. Venegas said two men, one of whom he knows well, have expressed interest in serving on a Parks & Rec Committee. He suggests meeting with them initially to build a foundation for them, passing off appropriate projects to them and helping them get started.

- **2020 Projects:** Determine how many Bear Brook State Park passes to purchase and when. Discuss how to offer them when the Library is closed, which is four days each week.

Mr. Venegas said that Mr. Goodine has said he will purchase one pass, and they should probably purchase one more, initially. They would be available at the Library and displayed upright on a stand for good visibility. They would also be available on line. It will only require a vote of the Library trustees, of which he is one. He also reported that the Library is now offering Notary services free of charge. He said he would like this information displayed on the Town website.

Ms. Higham reported her research on the proposed dock for the boat launch. She said there is a Shoreland program which is part of DES. The concern is not with the dock but how getting from land to the dock will affect the shoreline. She said she will find out what needs to be done to get a permit.

Mr. Pelissier said this will involve Highway, Parks & Rec and the EDC.

SCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING

Chair Frascinella said the next meeting will be on March 18th or March 25th. He will inform the Committee members when it is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Venegas made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm. Ms. Higham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

**SIGNATURE PAGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
February 26, 2020**

Michael Frascinella, Chairman

Date signed _____

Chad Pelissier, Member

Date signed _____

Jeffrey Venegas, Member

Date signed _____

Scott McDonald, Member

Date signed _____

Maureen Higham, BOS Ex-Officio Member

Date signed _____