ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Town Hall
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
June 12, 2019

The June 12, 2019 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:00 pm. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Jeffrey Venegas, Mike Frascinella, Maureen Higham

Allenstown staff: Derik Goodine, Town Administrator

Guests: Christina Barton and Andrew Pacuk

New Business

- **State Park Collaboration**

Chair Frascinella introduced Christina Barton, Bear Brook State Park Manager, who was accompanied by Andrew Pacuk. He said that the Economic Development Committee has taken on some of the Parks & Rec projects in Allenstown because there currently is no Parks & Rec Committee. He mentioned EDC's work on a skateboard park and an ice-skating rink. He also described plans for summer concerts at Town Hall, pole banners and new town signs. The efforts of the EDC, he said, brought a tax break for new Allenstown businesses and renovations for existing ones. This has resulted in several new businesses starting up in town. He said he hopes to open up communication with Bear Brook State Park and perhaps collaborate on some projects.

Mr. Goodine said he recently learned from the Tri-Town EMS that the State Park has lots of events, including dirt bike and mountain bike races. Allenstown could help to promote these.

Ms. Barton stated that they do have lots of events, including foot races and dog-walking events for shelters. She recently found pictures from the 1950's when a winter carnival at Bear Brook was a huge event, with ice skating and many other activities. She said they would like to bring that back. She continued, explaining that they have two categories of events: those sponsored by the Park and those sponsored by other groups. When the events are sponsored by other groups, they do their own advertising. She noted that Allenstown residents are not using the Park as much a they have in prior times.

Chair Frascinella said the new town signs will feature the slogan: HOME OF BEAR BROOK STATE PARK.

Mr. Venegas suggested that, via the town website and the newsletter, Allenstown could post events at the Park and the Park could, likewise, inform Park users of events in Allenstown. He said a town appreciation day at the Park might be a good way to bring the two entities together.

Chair Frascinella asked about a discount at the Park for Allenstown residents.

Ms. Barton said she could check on that, push that idea up the ladder in her organization. They might be able to have one-half off or free admission for Allenstown residents on certain days. Library passes is another option.

Chair Frascinella told Ms. Barton about the Committee's research on skating rink kits and suggested a flat location for one of these in the Park near the Snowmobile Museum.

Ms. Barton said they would like to rent cabins in the winter for ice fishing. She said they would like to incorporate more winter activities in the Park. She said that Bear Hill is in great condition. There are 55 buildings, including 32 one-room cabins, some with chimneys and electricity. Bear Hill overlooks Bear Hill Pond, and the Civilian Conservation Corp has done a great job renovating the area. There is a dining hall, and they have hosted wedding and meeting events.

Chair Frascinella said he would like to have kayak/canoe races on Catamount Pond, based on age groups. The Committee would seek out support from clubs and sporting goods stores.

Ms. Barton said that the Catamount area is under-utilized.

Mr. Venegas suggested a scavenger hunt for children based on the many trails named after animals.

Ms. Barton said they want to be a family-oriented park. She said there is a giant group fire pit, which needs chairs. They have flush toilets and would like to install showers.

Chair Frascinella asked about plans to rehabilitate the beach.

Ms. Barton said they are now dredging it and have moved the lifeguard shack and changing rooms off the beach, so all of that is going on. She continued, saying the wildlife signs are coming down because visitors expect to see the wildlife posted on the signs, and it doesn't always happen.

Chair Frascinella thanked Ms. Barton and Mr. Pacuk for coming and it was agreed that the two groups would work to communicate and collaborate regarding activities.

Old Business

• Town signs: Jeffrey to report on contest at ARD and AES to name the bears before school ends. Mike to report on sign delays that have been resolved. For floral plantings around each sign, does anyone know any business we could approach to do this?

Chair Frascinella reported that there was a delay in starting work on the town signs because of a typo on the mailing sent from Allenstown which include the check. He also said he had to locate a vector file for the town seal image so that the sign company could use it. He said he was able to do this.

Mr. Venegas said that the school year ends this Friday, so the contest for naming the bears would have to be done in the fall.

Chair Frascinella said that they are still searching for a company to do the planting around the signs.

Ms. Higham suggested it might be something that students could do as volunteer work.

Mr. Goodine said that Peter LaPierre from the State DOT reviewed the proposed locations for the town signs and said they were fine, as long as they were at least 12 feet from the edge of the road.

Chair Frascinella asked if the Highway Department might help with traffic during the installation of the signs.

Mr. Goodine said that the Police Department would probably do that.

• Plans for Grand Opening Ceremonies: Construction and renovations are still ongoing. Mike will have estimated dates at the meeting.

Chair Frascinella reported that the storage company on Chester Turnpike expects to open sometime in June. Hudson Quarry has a showroom open for business. He said he has had no update on the Physical Therapy Clinic or on Vault Storage. The Suncook Convenience Store renovation is complete on the inside and is almost done on the outside. They are planning a July 12th opening. He said that the storage company, Hudson Quarry and Suncook Convenience Store are all enthusiastic about having publicity for their grand openings.

• Summer Concert at Town Hall: Mike and Scott to report on two bands that performed last Friday at Chantilly's. Mike McGeehan (of the Nobody Band) offered both bands to perform at no charge. August 4th is the best date. Fire Chief Paul St. Germain will get one of his volunteer groups to commit for food service once we pick a date. Need to discuss concert logistics.

Chair Frascinella noted that Crazy Steve is a high energy band. He and Mr. McDonald agree that the two bands are good. He suggested starting late in the afternoon since it is apt to be hot in early August. He said that Mr. McGeehan asked about a canopy.

Mr. Venegas suggested having the following Sunday, August 11th, as a rain date.

Ms. Higham asked about the genre for the concert bands.

Mr. Venegas said a 60's mix would be good.

• Pole Banners: Need reports on the number and location of utility poles to decorate and prices for pole banners from the vendors we identified.

Ms. Higham reported that Mr. Pelissier has not provided a pole count yet. She presented pricing of $36 each for about 25 customized, 18 X 36, vinyl banners. The brackets are $71 for a set of two. The banners would be printed on both sides. She will order one so that the Committee can check on the quality.

Mr. Venegas suggested ordering two customized banners and other smaller ones – either generic or featuring scattered activities such as fishing, biking, and hiking.

• **Suncook Valley Trails Plan: FYI: SVT group is meeting on Tuesday June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Epsom Central School, 282 Black Hall Rd. The meeting will review discussions with, and plans from, the five rail trail towns.**

Chair Frascinella said this item is just for notification.

• **Skateboard Park: Will a church representative meet with us to discuss use of the convent parking lot for skateboarding?**

Mr. Venegas said that he perhaps needs to be more aggressive with the church, as he has had no response. Their concerns are about liability.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes to review.

Schedule the next meeting

Chair Frascinella said the next meeting will be June 26, 2019.

Adjournment

Mr. Venegas made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Ms. Higham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE PAGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JUNE 12, 2019

Michael Frascinella 7/17/19

Michael Frascinella, Chairman **Date signed** _____

Chad Pelissier, Member **Date signed** 7-17-19

Jeffrey Venegas, Member **Date signed** _____

Scott McDonald, Member **Date signed** July 17, 2019

Maureen Higham, BOS Ex-Officio Member **Date signed** 7/17/19