

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Town Hall 16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
December 11, 2019

The December 11, 2019 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:10 pm. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mike Frascinella, Maureen Higham, Scott McDonald, and Jeff Venegas

Mr. Pelissier arrived at 7:55 pm (coming from a Zoning Board meeting where he is a member)

OLD BUSINESS

- **Christmas Light Contest: Review registrations, votes, and other details (Jeff and Scott). Finalize details of the Award Ceremony on Dec.14th.**

Chair Frascinella said he has received favorable feedback on the contest. One note thanked the EDC for bringing the community together with this and other activities. He said that some people only cast one vote and needed to be reminded that there are two categories – best lights and best lawn decorations.

Mr. Venegas said the middle school has been announcing the contest and tree lighting every day. He said the Student Council will have lots of baked goods for sale and the chorus is practicing their musical pieces. He added that he has an artificial tree at home which could be used for the ceremonies.

Chair Frascinella said he will email invitations to the ceremony to those involved with the contest.

Mr. MacDonald said he has the trophies and gift cards. He said that Allenstown was in a malaise a few years ago and the atmosphere is much better now.

- **Hometown Heroes Banners: Review progress on getting residents to sponsor banners.**
- **Allenstown Pole Banners: Estimate number and costs for banners and U.S. flags on Main St. (25 poles on Main St.). Discuss banner hardware from Matt Seiler's vendor.**

Chair Frascinella reported that two people have ordered Hometown Hero Banners – Tom Irzyk and Wayne Martel. He said they need to advertise this more. He said that Matt Seiler from Hometown Heroes has let him know about a vendor with poles and brackets at about one-half the cost of those the Committee has been looking at.

Ms. Higham reported the quotes she has obtained: \$875 for 25 banners and \$2,700 for 25 banners with hardware.

Chair Frascinella said they are planning to place Hometown Hero banners on Main Street and the others on School Street. He said if there are extra banners, they can also put some on Granite Street.

Mr. Venegas said it would be great to put some outside or inside at the schools.

NEW BUSINESS

▪ New Town Business, Hooksett Rent-a-Tool

Chair Frascinella reported that Hooksett Rent-a-Tool is planning to move its business to Allenstown, between Dunkin' Donuts and the laundromat at Routes 3 and 28. The owner has been before the ZBA and will also go before the Planning Board. He said the Committee should help this business to succeed.

▪ 2020 Projects: Identify projects for 2020 and estimated costs to include in 2020 budget, including Boat Launch improvements - ways to obtain picnic benches and grill equipment for Ronnie Pelissier Memorial Boat Launch.

Mr. Venegas suggested setting criteria for the types of projects they will undertake.

Chair Frascinella said that, because of the lack of a Parks & Rec Committee, he has proposed an expansion of the EDC tasks, adding this language to their web page: 'In addition to economic development, the EDC is working with the Select board to take actions that promotes community spirit and encourages a high quality of life.' He said he is also proposing language which says they are working to identify the town's natural capital and to promote green spaces, rivers, ponds and trails for outdoor recreation.

Mr. Venegas said that is exactly what he was talking about.

Chair Frascinella read the mission statement of the EDC:

The mission of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) is to:

- Promote economic prosperity in the town.
- Attract new businesses that increase the tax base.
- Encourage existing businesses to renovate or expand.
- Increase the tax base through projects, programs, and activities.
- Seek the support of other town departments and state agencies for specific projects.
- Encourage businesses to create jobs which residents can apply for.

Mr. Venegas said they could add one more bullet to the list:

- Take actions that promotes community spirit and encourages a high quality of life.

Ms. Higham asked who will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the rail trail.

Mr. Venegas said that would be a Parks & Rec responsibility, so it falls under the Town Administrator.

Chair Frascinella stated that there are three areas to focus on for trail development, the first being downtown, connecting Hooksett to Pembroke. This, he said, is the easiest segment. A more difficult segment is connecting Epsom to Allenstown. The third is between Deerfield Road and downtown, and is the most difficult because the State paved over the railroad tracks.

Ms. Higham asked about facilitating the development of the segments.

Chair Frascinella said they will have someone clear the trails, probably the Highway Department. They will also work with the Rail Trail people. The EDC would not be in charge of the project but would help where they could.

Mr. Venegas asked about the status of the China Mill development.

Ms. Higham said they are doing Brownfield testing for contaminants. The project, she said, is still progressing.

Chair Frascinella said that one costly project would be a bridge over the river for the Rail Trail.

Mr. Venegas said that with the apartments there, it would work in well. They would have a trail in their backyards.

Chair Frascinella said he has an outline for community projects.

- ✓ Holiday Contest and Tree Lighting
- ✓ Welcome Banners and Hometown Hero Banners
- ✓ Rail Trail
- ✓ Boat Launch
- ✓ Concerts

Mr. Venegas said he wants to continue pursuing the skating rink project. He said that the town owns the land at the Boys and Girls Club, and the area where the basketball hoop is might work for that. He asked if there is a description of the responsibilities of the Parks & Rec Committee.

Chair Frascinella read the short description provided, saying it is very general.

Mr. Venegas said they could check the websites of other towns.

Chair Frascinella said the last time a Parks & Rec Committee met was August of 2014. He asked Mr. Venegas to write something for a news blast which might elicit a response from people interested in reviving this committee. He continued, saying that there are four parcels on

Pine Acres Road which the town has taken for non-payment of property taxes. These, he said, are on the river and might be a good spot for a picnic area.

Mr. Venegas said this would be an opportunity for a canoe and kayak rental business.

▪ **Facebook: Discuss effectiveness of Allenstown Facebook site.**

Chair Frascinella said the Town Administrator reports lots of hits on the Facebook page. Chair Frascinella said to him it is a jumble of information, is repetitious, and is not engaging. He said that the names of the homes participating in the contest are listed as comments.

Mr. Venegas said it looks like a first Facebook page, but he is proud that Allenstown has one. It is something he has been pushing for since he started getting involved. He asked if the Town Administrator has comments 'on' or 'off.' He asked about photos.

Chair Frascinella said there are photographs, but they need to be organized.

Mr. Pelissier entered the meeting, coming from the Planning Board meeting where he is a member. When asked about what the town had for a Christmas tree in the past, he said that the Town Administrator always got a fresh one. After checking with the Town Clerk via telephone, he said that lights and decorations were in the basement of Town Hall.

Mr. Venegas told Mr. Pelissier that he had an artificial tree they could use. He said if the Committee wanted a fresh one, they could each make a donation and purchase one. He said he would go to get it.

SCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING

Chair Frascinella said that the ZBA would be meeting on January 8, 2019, so the EDC would probably meet next on January 15, 2019, depending upon whether or not the Planning Board would be meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Higham made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Mr. Venegas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

SIGNATURE PAGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
December 11, 2019

 _____ Date signed 1/8/20

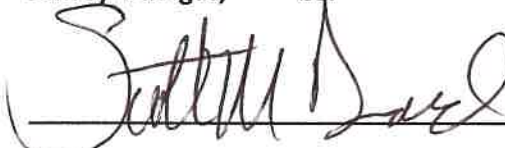
Michael Frascinella, Chairman

 _____ Date signed 1/8/20

Chad Pelissier, Member

_____ Date signed _____

Jeffrey Venegas, Member

 _____ Date signed January 8, 2020

Scott McDonald, Member

 _____ Date signed 1/8/2020

Maureen Higham, BOS Ex-Officio Member