

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Town Hall 16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
January 08, 2020

The January 08, 2020 meeting of the Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella at 6:50 pm. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mike Frascinella, Maureen Higham, Scott McDonald
Chad Pelissier arrived at 7:12 pm.

Allenstown staff: Derik Goodine, Town Administrator arrived at 7:42 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Christmas Light Contest: Conduct Post Mortem: What went well; what did not.**

Chair Frascinella said that there was a good crowd at the awards ceremony. People seemed to be having fun, the Chorus was good and the Student Council had cocoa and snacks for sale.

Ms. Higham said that the snacks were good.

Mr. McDonald said the Student Council made \$90 and that this activity is good for the town.

Chair Frascinella said they started the planning too late, so they should start by November 1st next year. He added that it takes time for new events to catch on. He asked if they should add more categories and/or add second and third place awards.

Ms. Higham said that two categories is enough.

Mr. McDonald said they should get local businesses involved.

Chair Frascinella noted that there was a nice article about the event in a big city newspaper, and that Mr. Venegas and Mr. McDonald did a great job. He said that perhaps next year LaValley could be asked to donate a tree, which would give their business some publicity.

Mr. McDonald said that the trophies were cheap and tacky, but the people liked them.

- **Hometown Heroes Banners: Discuss ways to get more residents involved.**

Chair Frascinella reported that only two banners have been ordered. He plans to ask Mr. Goodine to do another email blast to promote this opportunity. He said they have until the end of May to begin posting the banners, and he suggested that the EDC might subsidize the cost of the \$200 banners by paying \$50 toward each one.

- **Allenstown Pole Banners: Review map of Main Street and identify where to place US flags and Welcome Banners. Discuss any contact with *Signworld* as a possible vendor.**

Chair Frascinella said that Mr. Pelissier has counted 25 poles on School Street and has agreed to identify which ones have lights. The poles without lights will have the Welcome Banners. For the American flags, he asked if they should use only traditional American flags or some of the ones with blue or green stripes, for example, representing police and border control people. It would be a way to honor them as well. He said he has learned that, when presenting a project to the Selectboard, it is best to come up with the final plan and all details before making the presentation. He said that Mr. Venegas has said that the schools might like to have banners.

New Business

- **New Business in Town: Hooksett Rent-a-Tool to present its site plan to the Planning Board on January 15th.**

Chair Frascinella said that Rent-a-Tool wants to locate its business between Dunkin' Donuts and the Laundromat on Route 28. They will also have some storage space behind Sully's. This business, he said, adds diversity to the types of businesses in Allenstown. Chair Frascinella noted that a developer is interested in siting an assisted living facility in that same area – at the corner of Chester Turnpike and Route 28. This \$15 million development would employ 50 to 70 people.

Mr. Pelissier, who entered the meeting at 7:12 pm, said the property consists of eleven acres, three of which are good.

Mr. McDonald said there were a lot of puddles in that area.

Mr. Pelissier stated that, regarding the banners and flags, he plans to check with the Sewer Department tomorrow about which poles have lights on School Street. They are good with VUEWorks, he said, the computer program which inventories town assets. He also said that he checked some old Town Reports and learned that two Allenstown residents died in World War II. He said their pictures are in the Town Reports, and the EDC should consider donating the money for banners honoring them.

Chair Frascinella said this is a great idea, and they could include veterans of other wars as well. He said that Matt Seiler has told him that they need pictures with good resolution for the banners because they must be enlarged. Black and white photographs are the best.

Mr. Pelissier said that Armand and Claudette Verville would be their best resources for historical information. He said it should be easier to locate pictures of more recent veterans because of advances in technology, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

Mr. McDonald said that when he entered the service, his picture was taken and sent to his hometown newspaper.

- **Online Business Directory: How can we motivate more businesses to join?**

Chair Frascinella said there have been no additions to the online business directory in the last couple of months.

Mr. Pelissier asked if the EDC could list the business themselves.

Chair Frascinella said it seems that those with corporate headquarters elsewhere, such as Aubuchon Hardware and the Dollar Store, are less interested in being listed. Locally owned businesses have more incentive.

Mr. Pelissier stated that the ZBA met tonight and approved a six-unit industrial building proposed by Allenstown Aggregate. They already have two or three tenants lined up. This is on flat land which they have finished quarrying. They are planning for two more similar facilities in the future. He said they have over 300 acres of land, but it is currently zoned Open Space/Farming (OSF), which is why they were before the ZBA.

- **EDC 2019 Report for Town Report: Report is needed by Jan 13th.**

Chair Frascinella said he would prepare this report on behalf of the Committee.

- **2020 Projects: Identify projects for 2020 and estimated costs. This includes the Welcome Banners, Hometown Heroes Banners, Boat Launch Improvements, Spring and Summer Concerts, Rail Trail, Holiday Light Contest, and other ideas.**

Chair Frascinella addressed the Spring and Summer Concerts. He asked Mr. Pelissier to contact the woman he knows regarding a date for a Spring Concert, any weekend in May other than Memorial Day weekend. He said that he has a computer link to "Bands in Town" and it seems that **Green Heron** is gaining popularity. He would like to schedule them for the Summer Concert.

Mr. Pelissier said he would like to work on a Memorial Honor Roll, something big like an obelisk. He said that World War II information is the easiest to obtain.

Chair Frascinella said he would like to create a self-walking tour, with a pamphlet guide, of historical homes in Allenstown.

Mr. Pelissier suggested that one or two EDC members attend a meeting of the Historical Society.

Mr. Goodine arrived at 7:42 pm.

Mr. McDonald said that Dr. Hevern retired at the first of the year, and it would be nice to honor and thank him. He has been a physician in Allenstown for 40 years.

Chair Frascinella asked Mr. McDonald to gather information about Dr. Hevern so they could decide how to honor him.

Mr. McDonald said it would be nice if Allenstown selected a Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Goodine said that a Rotary Club was starting up in Allenstown.

Mr. Pelissier suggested awarding the Boston Post Cane to the oldest resident in Allenstown.

Chair Frascinella said he would like to organize a Canoe and Kayak Convoy, going from Iris Pond to Buck Street Island and back. He said they would be limited by the small amount of parking available at Iris Pond. He said that people could put in from the trailer park across from Deerfield Road because there is town-owned land there on Jasper Road. Another option is Albin Avenue.

Mr. Pelissier added that town-owned land on Riverside Drive offers good sites for this.

Chair Frascinella next addressed Boat Launch Improvements. He said the Highway Department put in a new ramp in 2018 and did some clearing.

Mr. Goodine said that picnic benches would be nice, and maybe a dock to the left and another dock to fish from. It needs to be determined, he said, whether dock permits can be granted locally or if they are in the Shoreland Zone jurisdiction.

Ms. Higham said she would check about the docks.

Chair Frascinella next mentioned the Rail Trail project, and specifically, the need for a bridge over the Suncook River.

Mr. Goodine said there are Land & Water Conservation grants. He added that it would be great if the Army Corps of Engineers could construct a bridge.

Mr. Pelissier said the holiday decorating event should be held earlier in December and have a rain date available so the event could be held outside.

Chair Frascinella said he would still like to find a location for an ice-skating rink. He said that Mr. Venegas suggested the possibility of using the paved area near the convent, which is used for basketball in seasons other than winter.

REVIEW AND APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Pelissier made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting. Ms. Higham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Pelissier made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting. Ms. Higham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Higham made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion, which carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 08, 2020

_____ Date signed _____

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