

Economic Development Committee  
Zoom meeting  
June 30,2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. Attending:

Gordon  
Janet  
Bianca  
Katherine Freygang (listening in)  
Priscilla  
Richard  
Dee  
Arnon

Last meeting did not have a quorum and was not an official meeting - we were still in COVID-19 lock down.

Janet:

Budget review: \$380 left in budget. Worked with Civic Lift founder Evan Dobos who offered a website

- Resources for business and people with fallout from Covid
- Site had 54 visitors last week
- Gave us another upgrade and we have been finishing the site
- Updated existing pages
- Social media campaign for Consider Cornwall (see below)
- Only budget that did not get spent: \$325 for refreshments
- New budget for 2021 is \$5,195. Budget recommendations for September.

Broadband Access

- A consultant working on a plan/presentation for fiber. Might send out presentation if it is good or condense if needed. Idea to pilot in downtown Cornwall to test.

Gordon:

- New Town Planner has joined Cornwall and is redoing zoning regs in town. She said they are not consistent and are confusing for people trying to make things happen in town. She 'gets it'; grew up in the area. She is creating a doc that reflects a lot of the ideas in forward looking plan. Will allow for more home based business, more housing, rental. Committee is meeting 2x month.

Water and sewer:

- Time out while waiting to hear from USDA. Will light a fire to get numbers for grant. With Covid things might have changed on the grant. Have to weigh it all out. Would be nice to make a decision if town is ready for that.
- Our job is to get the best information for people. Not going to rush.

Janet

Website being revamped

- Got drone footage
- Social media campaign to encourage people to move here full time
- Concept:
  - o Stay safe/stay here
  - o Stay safe/move here
- Traffic on school sites has been bananas. People have had to email the principle and take zoom tours
- Q:Can we use these emails to contact the prospective residents directly?
- Will send links to the site

Dick:

Northwest Connect: Really disappointed with the site's information. We had talked about having the top guy (Kim) to talk with us? Would like an update.

- Internet expansion group in Cornwall
- We can invite him to the next meeting

Gordon:

Hunch- look at this as a regional approach or with a few towns

- Verizon will put a tower on Popple Swamp.
- Jocelyn is in middle of it all. Looking at looking at fiber hub to Torrington which would make it easier to wire smaller towns

Simon and Kate

Speaker series: we put our program on hold. Can it be by Zoom instead? Maybe a couple in the fall

Send ideas to Simon and Kate.

- Elizabeth Ridgway is going to talk
- Emergency service
- Future of the town

Priscilla

How many houses under 500k are available?

- new listing \$325. In contract
  - Listed a new house on Sunday and already have 2 offers
  - Anything that comes in under \$300 has no shelf life
  - 15 houses on the market in Cornwall (half of last year)

Next meeting: September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.