

Cornwall Economic Development Commission

EDC Minutes 09/22/20 @ 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm. In attendance was: Janet, Priscilla, Dee, Simon, Kate, Bianka, Gordon, Richard, Dick, Arnon, Lee as well as guests Gary Steinkohl and Kevin Reinhardt

- The minutes were reviewed, a motion was made by Priscilla to accept the minutes, seconded by Bianca approved by all.

Treasurer's Report -

- Kate noted that our budget is now \$5,195

Gordon/PNZ

PNZ is working on a town plan
Settled on 2 projects as amendments

- Affordable housing - can split off an acre as long as goes to housing project not for profit
- Reworking home business regulations to make them more user friendly as many people relocated here and are renovating property for business

These will go to public hearing in December
Town planner is enthusiastic and working hard.
Business climate is uneven - lots of building activity
Pizza restaurant just waiting for water supply then ready to go.
Has seen interest in commercial. Some grants came in to spruce up Wandering Moose space. TV crew filmed the bridge

Priscilla noted that housing prices are up 70% due to Coronavirus influx

Todd/Water and Septic

- We were scheduled to meet every second Tuesday; want to get meeting back
- Continuing to address issue and find out what residents feel about it
- Hung up on where it is going to go. Can't impact too many people in too severe a fashion.
- Funding request to USDA has been submitted and should hear back by Oct 1.
 - o Still providing info to them but optimistic.
- After that we will work on the question to put in front of the town. A lot of review, public input and legal.
- Then a vote, hopefully in December.

Janet/Website

- We were able to create the site with Civic Lift for very little money
- Seems to have driven business to farms
- Agree to create a subcommittee (Janet/Arnon/Dee) to address link pages from

'Stay Here' and Move Here' to improve user experience

Janet/EDC Priorities

The group will focus on chosen priorities, which are as follows:

- Develop and carry out a Buy/Hire Local campaign, while supporting the Explore Cornwall site, encompassing the year-round Farmer's Market (Janet, Dee, Lee)
 - o We can continue what we started with covid-related promotion.
 - o Where would we put year-round market?
 - Norfolk has a successful one
 - Town hall?
 - Is it really ours to run? We need to ask the vendors!
 - Gordon: online is being perfected which most will be doing over the winter
 - Can we just promote that?
- Support NW Connect and stay up to date on options (Dick/Richard)
 - o Gary is here as head of internet expansion committee:
 - Norfolk is going to a vote in May for town-funded 'backbone' - wiring owned by town and another party would handle from pole to house. Partnering with businesses that have done that in Western Mass. Mill rate will increase by 3% and they get the option to subscribe
 - NW Connect is helping Sharon and Lakeville to get going on the idea
 - If Optimum doesn't show up we have an alternative
- Improve connectivity in Cornwall via cell and fiber (Janet/Arnon) see above
- Support the community hub with a speaker series (Kate/Simon)
 - o when the Union reopens (or perhaps by Zoom?)
 - Can have a limited number of people at the Union, but can have a Zoom set up there (October 1st)
 - o Sessions should be about prioritizing what people need now. Would have been nice to do one on PPP Loan. Can still do one on loan forgiveness.

● Next meeting October 27th at 7:30 pm at The Union, located at 415 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall.

Janet moved to adjourn, seconded by Bianca, approved by all.