

Cornwall Economic Development Commission

# EDC Meeting

## Minutes 09/10/19

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The meeting was called to order at 9:05am. In attendance were Janet, Jacque, Richard Sears, Gordon, Bianka, Todd and Richard Bramley

### Presentations

None

### Communications

Email from West CT Tourism Board - Janet will suggest Todd and Bianka to the Selectmen to represent EDC

### Reports

· *Treasury, Kate* - absent. Janet went over the numbers. \$753.74, 4944.96, ads were 749.33. R. Sears also asked about the business directory. Janet will gather the info that he and Bianka provided and lay out as a print edition. We will also post to the website.

Janet called for a vote for \$250 be set aside for members to attend relevant economic conferences. Passed unanimously.

· *P&Z, Gordon* - The draft of the ten year town plan is moving along with significant and substantial suggestions for changes to regulations. Stakeholders meeting to come and he requests EDC support. The septic meeting and positive vote seemed to indicate town is willing to support. But in hand is a push to expand housing and offer business opportunities, including home based. The draft can serve as a guide to innovative solutions moving forward. There's a group surveying the Pink House for possible

development and the ebike shop is a fantastic example of a business suited for Cornwall. Owner is like an “ambassador” to the town. There’ s coffee on the pot. Ian bought Lush’ s place. So critical mass. Possibly consider tax abatement for renovations to commercial structures. Also on deck is discussion about the possible T reroute of route 7. Must take all opinions into considerations. Don’ t want to hurt existing businesses. Safety and visibility key.

· *Water & Septic, Todd* - An exciting time, all is moving forward. The town vote to continue study indicated broad support. Now to see if the town can afford, obtain USDA funding. Having good meetings how next steps will unfold. It’ s still a long process but ultimately hope for a positive outcome for WC growth and clean discharge in regards to river. Review of options is ongoing but by spring, hope for final location recc and expected costs associated with. Overall takeaway is residents want to see the downtown come back. Group will continue to listen to concerns before submitting to board on specific site.

· *Promoting Cornwall, Janet & Jacque* - The social media campaigns had plenty of eyes. The objective was two pronged, get folks interested in moving / opening business here and visiting. Janet liked Gordon’ s line, “they keep the coffee on” in regard to the ebike as a welcoming entry to town. “Come home” another angle for young people who have moved away but are looking to work from home. It was also noted that Jacque has submitted her resignation to Janet and Gordon as of November when her term is up. She is proud of the work she accomplished with the commission and will continue to “cheerlead” for the town. Janet may speak to Neal, Jeff or George for consideration as replacement. Neal(i?) has a background in marketing. The candidate would assume control of the social media accounts and campaigns, collaborating with Janet and larger EDC group.

· *Housing, Gordon* - The town plan suggests smaller lots and house size. Selectmen are reviewing and also would stress rentals. Older / younger accessibility is crucial. He pointed out ambulatory

care, high costs of nursing homes so now elderly stay in large homes rather than move. How to accommodate?

### Unfinished Business

- Hub discussions - ongoing with Hughes Library. Janet is researching whether grant can be used to bring fiber from school
- Internship programs - Janet is working with high school. Any Cornwall business is welcome to consider the program. Bianka mentioned it would be nice (and possibly mandatory) to pay interns time but not all businesses can afford. Could a fund be set up? Perhaps 21<sup>st</sup> Century fund?

### New Business

- Consider Cornwall event with Trinity - an afternoon meet and greet, job opportunities, housing, recreation Richard Sears will discuss with TRC.
- Invite Bob of ebikes to a Nov or Dec meeting
- **Announcements**
- The next meeting is Oct. 8th at 9 a.m. at Town Hall

Adjourned, 10:06.m.