

Cornwall Economic Development Commission

EDC Meeting

Minutes 10/08/19

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am. In attendance were Janet, Jacque, Richard Sears, Gordon, Bianca, Kate and Richard Bramley

Presentations or Guests

None

Communications

The town plan under discussion is now prioritized and also numbered. There's a lot! Very encouraging and well thought out. Selectmen are focusing on more "urgent needs" such as wastewater situation, accessory apartments, considering high speed / fiber network. Dick Sears reiterated it's important for EDC to support the water treatment facility. Bianca agreed as it effects housing too. Board will highlight these amongst others then its up to P&Z to run with it. Gordon is thankful for all the committees. Note - Town meeting for proposed action likely in November.

Reports

· *Treasury, Kate* - \$754.74 in checkbook, \$4944.95 balance. Janet will look into payment to Civic Lift.

Bianca suggested placing the updated business directory in the Chronicle. Janet called for a vote for \$225. Passed unanimously.

· *P&Z + Housing - Gordon* - Lack of modestly priced housing still an issue, graying of population and shrinking school numbers is of concern. Hope to address to allow more multifamily dwellings.

Integral to attract younger residents, maintain or build volunteer base. Janet inquired the EDC' s priorities in support of the relevant Town Plan proposals. Gordon stressed in particular regulations effecting businesses such as setbacks, septic, parking, expanding zones, updating home based business regulations, consider planned development district, internet connectivity, welcoming and assisting new business, promoting existing. The P&Z meeting later that night will hear from subcommittees hear some from public to figure out responsibility implementing if suggestions move forward.

EDC supports public restrooms, water treatment facility and buy hire local initiatives (see business directory and social media).

Bianka asked about blight ordinances in order to possibly move things along, attract potential buyers to WC. Gordon thinks more productive to work with people who want to tackle issue. Not all buildings in area would be served by such an ordinance. Also, when base price comes down, people have shown interest to come in and redevelop. The vacancy rate in Cornwall has doubled in the last ten years. A vital center would attract and maintain more full-time. Not discounting "weekenders" - they play important role in our community as well. The opportunities of working remote should be heralded. EDC will look into adding real estate and job listings to Explore Cornwall website.

- *Water & Septic, Gordon* - Zeroing in on cost issues and will visit more towns and invite companies here with similar experience and to talk about operating costs and considerations. There were some first flush and room with a view jokes. I' ll leave to imagination. Clean! Like the water from a treatment facility.

- *Promoting Cornwall, Janet & Jacque* - The Hub will hopefully open its doors in November, offering healthcare sign ups, popup business workshops - open to ideas for use! Janet is looking to bring in interns from the high school to help run. Simon suggested posting employment opportunities too.

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 intern' s time but not all businesses can afford. Could a fund be set up? Perhaps 21st Century fund?

New Business

- Consider Cornwall event with Trinity - Dick will call to see if they' re still interested.
- Invite potential members. This was Jacque' s last meeting. She' ll be sending Janet the passwords for the social media accounts. She wishes everyone and the town the best!

· Announcements

- HVA hosting another family hike for Braxton employees.
 - Foreign Mission School will host up to 60 visitors
 - The next meeting will be a week later than usual due to vote.
- Adjourned, 10:05 a.m.