

Cornwall Economic Development Commission

EDC Meeting

Minutes 12/14/17

AGENDA

Janet Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:10am. In attendance- Janet, Jacque, Richard, Todd, Priscilla, Gordon

Guest - Felicia Jones of NW Connect

Ms. Jones introduced the non-profit working to get adequate internet coverage in the NW corner and fill gaps in cell service with fiber optics. Because this is a low population density area, it has not been seen as economically viable for larger telecoms to pursue. But now with funding, they are moving forward with mission to bring fiber optics here. Economic development would benefit. It's not just about connectivity but attracting jobs. They are submitting RFP to all utilities and plan to negotiate for the best deal for our region. It could raise property values, sustainability goals and we could possibly see a reduction in contract prices. Gordon said the town is interested in learning more and asked about a demo, larger conversation, if the state budget will allow or is there federal help? South Farms was mentioned as a rural innovation lab, fiber could assist.

November minutes approved.

Reports

- Priscilla - Priscilla is now a selectman - congratulations! She will no longer report on P&Z.
- Todd - septic study - End of the beginning. How to implement

suggestions from community and visioning of research. The group wants the highest and best use for Cornwall and planning for future is part of this.

- Janet & Jacque - The holiday stroll was fun for those attended, but an all day storm and messy driving conditions kept the participants to very local. The town looked nice though and we talked about how to incorporate other parts of Cornwall down the road. Perhaps a roll and stroll?

- Gordon - Housing - focus for P&Z is looking how regulations can open town for future growth. Smaller lots? Mixed use? Detached apartments? Tiny housing?

Correspondence/New Business

We received letters of interest to fill empty EDC seats from Erik Tietz, Simon Hewitt and Bianka Griggs. All of the “applicants” are qualified and have a vision for where the town is going. It was ultimately agreed to suggest Erik and Bianka to the Selectmen. We appreciate all of the enthusiasm and desire to volunteer.

Jocelyn Ayers encourages us to attend area EDC meeting on 1/30

Unfinished Business

- Tangible, measurable goals

- kiosk, pamphlet, EDC website, school branding, social media calendar

Adjourned, 10:20 am