

Cornwall Economic Development Commission

EDC Meeting Minutes

04/27/21 @ 7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. In attendance was: Janet Carlson (Chair), Gordon Ridgway, Priscilla Pavel, Simon Hewitt, Bianca Griggs, Lee Pryor, Duncan Webb, Arnon Fisher, Jane Herold, Jonathan Berry, Richard Bramley. Guests: Mare Rubin and Michelle Shipp, Heidi Kearns, Bill and Nancy Berry, Margaret D.

Janet Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:34

Rules for Public Meeting reviewed by Janet

Motion to approve Minutes from the 2/27/2021 EDC meeting- Priscilla Pavel

Second from Lee Pryor

Minutes approved

Initial Business:

Treasurer's Report

- No report as Kate is not on the call
- Janet Carlson discussed the EDC budget request for 2021-2022.

P&Z, Water & Septic (Gordon)

- Gordon a lot of things going on. PNZ trying to modernize the home business regs. Many are out of compliance so goal is to make it easier to follow regulations
- Buzz in town – interest, people moving here. Good article (New Haven Register among others) about West Cornwall new businesses.
- Town applied for grant to get 75% of sewer paid for. Chances are good and Jahana Hayes is behind it.
- Position of Cornwall as outdoor recreation hub for the area; as a welcoming place.
- Q from Bianca regarding Western CT Tourism Board

Promoting Cornwall (Janet)

Website update: some people unhappy about photo that is not Cornwall in the Explore Cornwall site

- Dee working with Rocco to bring relevant content from this site and unify it with the official Cornwall website.

Housing update (Gordon)

- Housing forum May 24th
- Film that highlights affordable housing
- State law requires a housing plan
- EDC can do promotion of the meeting

Spring plans and Promotions (Janet)

- Real estate flyer: Do have a number of spaces; should we update the flyer or update website. Dee and Janet to discuss
- Wait until regulations about home business? Finalized in the next month or so.
- Lee- add QR code if we do print something

Fundraising (Janet)

- Grants. The COG frequently has grants but no money right now. Lee will write the letter for grant. Sent to 75 businesses and raised \$2500-\$3000 for EDC activity fund.
- If raise money we should publicize the program so that everyone knows the parameters. (eg \$500 for signage)

New Business (Janet)

- Janet has been thinking about retail space left. What does Cornwall need?
 - o Convenience store
 - o Coffee shop/Bistro
 - o Healthy food takeaway
 - o Health Care practitioners, physical therapy, delivery of prescriptions to central place
 - o Bank or ATM (talk to Kate at Iron Bank first)
 - o Vet (Gordon talking with Little Guild who is looking for 5 acres)
 - o Garden store
- West Cornwall Library worked with EDC on internet zones (hotspots)
 - o Waiting for equipment to install
 - o First is in West Cornwall

Ideas section: will be added going forward. New budget in July so ideas are good now

- o Simon: new construction is booming. Le Gamin in Sharon is full and lots of Cornwallians are going there
- o See if Cornwall Market wants to expand? Frank?
- o Four Corners?

Bianca Griggs moved to adjourn. Priscilla Pavel seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

Adjourned – 8:14 PM

Next meeting May 25th