Cornwall Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes for 4/25/2023 @ 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

In Attendance: Simon Hewett ,Bianka Griggs, Oscar Anderson, Richard Bramley , Jane Herold , Mare Rubin, Gary Steinkohl , Duncan Webb

Guests:Neil Frauenglass, Richard Griggs, Gordon Ridgway, Chris Jackson

Meeting was called to order at 7:32

1. Minutes from the meeting of March 28th, 2023 were approved.
2. Mare Rubin shared the success offirst Business Roundtable meeting discussing Cornwall Day. She Proposed a budgetof $800 for Cornwall Day promotional materials and requested an additional $200 to support music and arts. Gary Steinkohl proposed up to $400 to support music and arts activities during Cornwall Day. The budget proposals were unanimously approved.
3. Discussion of future Roundtable meetings. The next is scheduled for May 4th to plan more specifics for Cornwall Day. Duncan Webb suggested a future meeting topicto cover Sustainable CT. He will follow up with a suggested date for that Roundtable meeting to be held in June or July.
4. Chris Jackson, owner of C&M Carting Solutions, spoke about his junk removal business which has been operating in Cornwall for about one year. Business has been positive. He has customers in Cornwall as well as throughout the Northwest corner. He does some local advertising and benefits from word of mouth.
5. Discussion on clarifying the opportunity and EDC role in Taste of Cornwall and working with Parks & Rec. Chris Sampson is helping with the music. The EDC can help with communications. Bianka Griggs agreed to follow up with Parks & Rec.
6. Gary Steinkohlprovided a budget update. $4,885 was remaining in the annual budgetbefore approvals during this meeting.
7. BiankaGriggs shared the Selectmen’s request to re-print the Visit Cornwall maps which are low in inventory, as well as the two large format maps for the kiosks. Graphics need to be revised. The estimated cost for design fees and printing was proposed at $1,025. There was unanimous approvalof the $1,025 to support this effort.
8. Discussion to consider advertising in the Music Mountain program. A suggestion was made to also consider advertising in the Sharon Playhouse program. After discussion and comparison of audiences and costs, a motion was made to approve $200 for an ¼ page ad in the Sharon Playhouse program. The motion was unanimously approved.
9. Gordon Ridgway provided a town update. There will be a Planning and Zoning survey in the May Chronicle regarding cannabis that encourages the public to share their opinions. Signs are back up on the Covered Bridge. There will be a few nights in May when the Covered Bridge will be closed for painting. Frontier continues to install fiber optics. The companysays its product will be more reliable than Optimum. Optimum will be servicing all of Cornwall that now has cable service. Frontier coverage is focused on areas of thicker settlements. Some parts of town will have a choice between providers.
10. Discussion of commercial propertiesavailable to potential new businesses. One entrepreneur is actively looking for a space and has been in contact with the owners of “the pink house.” The septic system project may enable more opportunities. Very little commercial property is empty or available. Bain’s, the old meat market, and other possible spaces were discussed. The entrepreneur will be connected to David Bain who owns one possible space.
11. Mare Rubin proposed looking into signs for the visitor information kiosks. An estimate will be provided at the next meeting.
12. Gordon Ridgway requested the link to the meetings be added to the town website. Bianka Griggs confirmed this information is provided to Town Hall along with the agenda. The link to each meeting is included in the agenda document. The link will also be sent separately in the future.
13. The next EDC meeting is 5/23/23.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46.