

Economic Committee

August 8, 2022 7 pm

Fitzwilliam Town Hall

Present: Beth Lorenz, Suzanne Gray, Skip Hagstrom, Chelley Tighe & Jason Newcomb

Absent: Kevin Love, Steve Reinhart & Jim Millar

Guests: Cody Morrison & Martin Nolan, Selectman

Beth opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Minutes: Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes of July 11, 2022 as written with a second by Chelley. All voted in favor. (5-0-0). Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes of July 18, 2022 as written with a second by Skip. All voted in favor. (5-0-0)

Beth introduced Cody Morrison, the new director of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Mr. Morrison gave an overview of what they do, stating they cover the southwest portion of NH. They work and advise businesses on retention and recruitment. They offer assistance in grant writing and administration. He added that there are tax incentive programs for business owners and homeowners and they help navigate the regulatory issues with them.

Skip asked how they are funded with Mr. Morrison stating they are non-profit and look to municipalities for contributions. Skip asked if the town would be billed and Mr. Morrison's reply was that they are looking at other ways to fund, possibly with grants. Skip then asked if there would be a contract between the town and the MEDC. The answer was they could and it was up to the community to see how they wanted to work it out. Beth asked when it would be monetized with Mr. Morrison replying it would be this fiscal year and that they do some fundraising with different funding streams.

3-Phase Power: Suzanne brought up the 3-phase power that PLP is in need of to stay located in Fitzwilliam. She stated the Economic Committee has a very tight budget and wanted to know how to utilize the services of the MEDC. Beth shared a voicemail from Connor Jennings of SWRPC, concerning 3-phase power along Rt 12 South. He indicated that this is a \$4 million dollar project and it is done at the customer's request. Skip shared that Stateline Truck is single phase and although Damon Lumber has 3-phase, it is done with their own portable generator.

Beth asked about the cost sharing and was told the business owner needs to request and take on the expense. Suzanne stated the Master Plan is looking at what we can do with town owned properties. Beth recommended PLP be invited to a meeting to get a

clearer idea of what they would be willing to take on. Also having Connor and Cody Morrison in attendance to offer suggestions and advice. Beth thought the BOS and PB should attend. Suzanne shared that not all the PB members would attend but maybe the Master Plan members could attend as well. She suggested and offered to see what town owned properties there are and then reach out to PLP to see where their interest is. Mr. Morrison will reach out to Northern Borders for available grants and will check with the Governor's office to find a contact person who works with their energy policies. Martin Nolan shared that there is subdividable land on Bowkerville Road that has 3-phase power, and that may be a potential site.

Website: Beth shared that she met with Debbie Favreau and they made some changes, which included the contact info for the Economic Committee. They can have 3 columns as previously discussed and she suggested a committee be formed to work on this. They will also need to provide and set things up for Debbie to make the changes. She questioned whether the BOS needs to know what the changes are before they get done and Mr. Nolan stated not specifics, just the general changes. She will schedule a time to meet with Lori Nolan and include Jason to discuss this. Chelley offered to contact the Town of Hinsdale to get some guidance on how they were able to complete their website.

Farmer's Market: Beth stated there is a great need for help in promoting and getting the word out. The market on Aug 6th was slow, maybe due to it being hot and many other events going on in and around town. With the upcoming BBQ contest on the 20th, it is crucial for people to help promote this through their FB pages. She added they are making progress on the contributions from vendors.

Suzanne indicated the Newsletter and emphasized that the committee needs to meet when we say we will meet. Beth will promote the Pie Contest at the Farmer's Market on the 17th and will also mention the Fantasy Faire in the September Newsletter.

With nothing further to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn with a second by Jason. All voted in favor (5-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next meeting: Sep 12, 2022 at Fitzwilliam Town Hall 7pm

Agenda for next meeting:

Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler