

Economic Committee

October 3, 2022 7 pm

Fitzwilliam Town Hall

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

Absent: Steve Reinhart & Jim Millar

Guests: Isaac Morse & Martin Nolan

Beth arrived late so Suzanne facilitated the meeting beginning at 7:07 pm.

Minutes: Beth made a motion to accept the minutes of September 12, 2022 as written with a second by Jason. All voted in favor. (5-0-0).

3-Phase Power: Suzanne summarized where the 3-phase power exists along Route 12 and the businesses that need it. One property on Route 12N may fit the bill for PLP. Beth has put Dan Sheerer, owner of PLP, in touch with the attorney for the sellers.

Farmer's Market: The final market is slated for October 15th. The Historical Society will work in conjunction with the market by promoting their Apple Fest on this date. Going forward into next year, the Farmer's Market Committee will be retained with Barbara Young, Sandy Parsons, Kathy Stark and Jason Newcomb. Suzanne inquired on how to make the work less time consuming. Jason answered that they need more marketing, the need to organize the events, how to coordinate with other events, and contact info from each organization. This year's BBQ contest was in the hottest season, so perhaps make it earlier where it will not be so hot. Jason also commented that the mix of vendors is good, but communication from them is needed to see how they are doing. There is a need for more advertising from the FM committee Suzanne asked about the available funds, and Jason responded about \$300 is earmarked for advertising. Suzanne shared that the sandwich board signs, which belong to the Economic Committee, are falling apart, and wondered what other options are available. Martin Nolan stated the Highway Dept. has acquired through a grant, a solar powered light up sign that maybe could be borrowed. Skip will talk with DPW Director Glenn Smith, and the Police Dept about putting it up by Austin's Auto or the Transfer Station for next year's markets. Skip suggested a guest book, at a welcome table be used to acquire email addresses from patrons and vendors to keep the line of communication open. Since the Community Church has a booth offering free coffee, maybe this could be the ideal location for the guest book. Marion will check with the Church. Martin would like to see local businesses setting up booths. Suzanne explained that the Economic Committee cannot favor one business over the other. Skip said this is something we

can work on. Martin suggested open it up to all Fitzwilliam businesses and advertise that it is volunteer if they want to. Jason shared that it was brought up last year in the hopes to get businesses involved.

Beth arrived at 7:37 pm. She stated they need one more member.

Chelley arrived remotely at 7:40 pm.

Website: Beth shared that Lori Nolan has access to the town website and stated the committee needs to put together photos and links to present to Lori to make it easy to make the updates. Suzanne suggested a working session via Zoom to see what sections of the town website can be worked on. Beth stated the Fitzwilliam Business Brochure is in PDF format and it needs links directing one to food, auto, etc. Members agreed to have a working Zoom meeting on the website changes on Oct 27, 2022 at 6pm.

Fitzwilliam Fantasy Faire: Chelley stated there has been no interest so far, even after placing the article in the August newsletter. Suzanne suggested asking the Farmer's Market Committee if they would be willing to take on some of the organizing. Beth will ask at the next FM meeting. Isaac Morse showed some interest in organizing the Faire. Beth will put him in touch with Caroline Tremblay to provide him with some insight on what is involved and what would need to be done. Martin suggested contacting the Fire Department. Beth will contact Brandy Mitchell.

Members: Suzanne made a motion, with a second by Jason, to nominate Isaac Morse as an alternate member of the Economic Committee. All voted in favor (5-0-0).

Next meeting: Oct 27, 2022 via Zoom 6pm.

Next Meeting: Nov 7, 2022 7pm Town Hall

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.

Agenda for next meeting:

Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler

