

## **Fitzwilliam Economic Committee**

Aug 1, 2016- Lower Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting began at 7pm.

**In attendance:** Bradley Miller, Chelley Tighe, Clare Rose-Howard, Skip Hagstrom, and Suzanne Gray.

**Guests:** Steve Reinhart, Frank Bequaert, Dorothy Zug, Carol Beckwith, and Chris Holman.

**The goals of the Economic Committee:** to get businesses together to network and pool resources, build relationships among business owners, promote new members, and to revitalize Fitzwilliam.

Approved: meeting minutes July 11, 2016

**Frank Bequaert:** Frank came into talk to the committee about an upcoming meeting with the Department of Transportation, which is scheduled August 22, 2016. There will be a presentation on ways to improve the safety at the junction of routes 12 and 119. Frank would like to become the advocate and his hoping to gather questions and concerns so they can be addressed at the meeting. He can be reached by following the link on the Fitzwilliam web page.

**Selectman's meeting:** The committee and its guests were invited to sit in on the discussion between the selectman and JB Mack, senior planner with the Southwest Region Planning Commission. He was there to promote 2 projects that might be of interest to the town. One project is to develop recreational trails throughout the town and perhaps hook up with the trails in neighboring towns. The other project would be to improve the trails we already have. Federal grants are available for both of these. More detailed information is available in the Selectman's minutes of August 1, 2016.

**Dorothy Zug:** Dorothy, from the Conservation Commission, presented the idea of Complete Streets to the committee members. This is an effort to develop bike paths along some of Fitzwilliam roads. Nothing definitive has been done on this yet, but the thought that each time a road is scheduled for repair, determine if there is the capability to include a bike path. The Ec Comm members felt this could help promote business and help to keep our visitors in town. Dorothy will be presenting the "Complete Streets" to other Fitzwilliam boards and committees in the hopes of gaining interest.

**Sept CCC:**- the next event is scheduled for Sep 12, 2016 beginning at 6pm and will be located at the town common with a plan to move to the Library in the event of rain. The canopy will be needed. There is already electricity available and Chris will provide a wireless mic. Clare will decorate and provide refreshments. Chris will talk with the other selectman about using the common for this event. The content of this gathering is to learn more about all the resources available to Fitzwilliam businesses and residents. Suzanne will contact Kate Thomas to see about her speaking to the group on what the library has to offer. Another topic discussed was what other places in town could be promoted to provide a location for businesses and residents to hold an event. This drew a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. It was decided that Chris would notify the other selectman that he was to speak about the town hall as one venue that could be used for purposes other than town meetings. It was decide that other businesses that are in attendance at his CCC could speak about their spaces that could be rented out.

Not everyone will get a chance to speak as a portion of the collaboration will be devoted to networking, but attendees could sign up to speak at future events. The CCC will be advertised on Chelley's sandwich board that she is loaning out to the committee and information will be displayed by Sep 1. Reminder phone calls will be made indicating that this will be a casual event and to "bring your own chair".

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

*Meeting minutes taken by Marion Wheeler.*