

Fitzwilliam Economic Committee

Feb 13, 2017: lower meeting room of the Town Hall

Meeting began at 7 pm.

In attendance: Adrianna Stefanko, Chelley Tighe, Clare-Rose Howard, Skip Hagstrom, Steve Reinhart, and Suzanne Gray,

Absent: Brad Miller and Mary Belle Isle

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.

Sidewalks: Suzanne gave some background information on the town's previous actions to create sidewalks in Fitzwilliam. She stated that with more thought and preparation, this could be a future project through the TAC program.

Feb 6th CCC: What worked at this latest event? All members felt that the speeches were kept to a reasonable time amount and that the yarn was a good reminder to all. This would be a good tool to use occasionally. Another area of concern for the committee is to follow through on what they say. Adrianna will be sending thank you letters to all the attendees thanking them for attending. Discussion followed with some ideas on how to improve on the CCCs. Adrianna says there is a lack of communication and believes we need to nurture the community first. Mailing postcards to all business owners was brought up. These could be purchased through Chelley's account at Vista print. The use of sandwich boards to advertise worked well, but having a larger font would make it more noticeable. It was suggested that the business list be updated and used internally for the committee and for other businesses. Steve would like to see these events run by the business owners and the committee members act as the facilitators.

Future events: The members discussed the farmer's market that Fitzwilliam used to have several years ago. Clare would love to see the village green used as a site to hold events on a regular basis, such as one Saturday a month. Perhaps the Recreation Department could assist with gathering people. The 3rd Saturday in September is "National Neighborhood Day" and this could be something the committee can be involved in. Possibly piggy-backing with other organizations (with their approval) might be a way to have a larger audience.

Reader's Choice Awards: It was decided that only the award recipients be acknowledged in the newsletter and not all the nominees.

Newsletter: A request will be sent to the newsletter asking them to correct our meeting dates on their calendar.

Town Meeting: Introducing the Ec Comm members at the town meeting and if people are interested, they can leave their email address with any member.

Approved: Minutes from Jan 9, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2017.

Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler

