

Fitzwilliam Economic Committee

February 5, 2018: Fitzwilliam Town Hall

Meeting began at 7 pm.

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.

In attendance: Suzanne Gray, Skip Hagstrom, Steve Reinhart, & Adrianna Stefanko

Absent: Chelley Tighe & Mary Belle Isle

Guest: Sarah Short from Massin Insurance Agency and Caroline Tremblay

Minutes: Minutes of December 4, 2017 were approved.

Members introduced themselves to Sarah. She shared with the group that she sends a Fitzwilliam business brochure to all new residents. Skip was able to provide her with a new supply.

Adrianna is back as meeting chair. She started the meeting off by having Caroline Tremblay brief everyone on the Fitzwilliam Fantasy Faire, which is to be held Oct 6, 2018.

Some items Caroline reported on:

Porta-potties- she was able to search for lower cost Porta-potties, as the figure she talked about at the last meeting was rather high. If they can go with the same company the town uses and purchase it through the town, then the cost would be \$60 for a regular and \$90 for a handicapped accessible. Skip commented that perhaps we could use the one that is currently there and only have to pay for the handicapped one.

Vendor application- she stated she has a vendor application in draft form and wanted to get these sent out soon. Steve asked if the \$25 vendor fee is enough. Maybe bumping it up to \$30 would still be acceptable. She will include some rules and guidelines on the form and Steve offered to proof it. It was decided to go with the \$30 vendor fee.

Sound- Caroline's brother will be in charge of sound and will do so for a flexible fee. He recommended the use of a raised stage to go under the tent. Caroline has a company in mind that will provide steps and an anti-slip platform. She is still determining the price, but it could be as low as \$115.

Music- the thought of having a headliner was discussed, having a local Irish or Scottish band; then fill in the slots with open mic people. Steve thought Cary Bluhm and Walden Whitham would be good headliners. He suggested John Sepe be contacted about the open mic portion. Steve added that typically the headliner would perform for 30-40 minutes and open mic musicians would perform 2-3 songs. Adrianna inquired about the fees to pay the musicians. Steve answered that at open mic events, a hat is passed for donations. Caroline was concerned about the type of music and wanted it to fit in with the theme. Steve replied not to worry, it is just background music and the musicians will most likely play the type of music you need. Steve will make contact with Cary Bluhm.

Tents/Electricity- Skip stated the tent will stay up for this event and will be removed the following day. He also mentioned there is power on the common at all times. He is just not aware of the exact locations.

Police- Adrianna stated she has contacted the church to see how this was handled during the flea market and is still waiting for a call back. She will follow up.

Parking- Caroline is looking at areas. The Fitzwilliam Inn offered their parking lot. Adrianna thought the side streets would be sufficient.

Fund-raising- Caroline stated tote bags are rather expensive. Bulldog Design would charge \$10.60 each for an order of 50. Steve suggested a corporate sponsor. Suzanne reminded everyone that the committee cannot promote a business. Adrianna commented that we should keep thinking. Perhaps buttons would be cheaper. Also she thought maybe a fundraiser could be tied into a CCC event.

Branding- the Historical Society has offered to share their Fitzwilliam Heraldry emblem. Connie Porter has this now and she should be ready in April for its use.

CCC event: Feb 26, 2018 at the Library. This event starts at 7pm with a 6:30 set up time. Adrianna and Suzanne reported that the theme this time would be **Communication Behavior Styles**. There are 4 different styles. If you understand your own style, you will understand others, which will lead to better communication. Suzanne will present. Attendees will participate by working one on one with someone of a different style. Skip will put out the signs. Steve suggested they read, "Good Communication equals higher profits". Adrianna wants to advertise the next CCC event so the members decided on May 21, 2018.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler