

## **Fitzwilliam Economic Committee**

Jan 9, 2017: lower meeting room of the Town Hall

Meeting began at 7 pm.

**In attendance:** Steve Reinhart, Suzanne Gray, Skip Hagstrom, and Adrianna Stefanko.

**Absent:** Clare Rose-Howard, Brad Miller, and Chelley Tighe.

**Guests:** Frank Bequaert

**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.

**TAC:** Steve shared his experience after attending the TAC meeting at SWRPC. He revealed some insight on the workings of the federal grants available for sidewalks and rail trails. These grants are awarded geographically.

**Frank Bequaert:** Frank happened to be in the building and stopped in to say hello. He was asked about his volunteer duties on maintaining the local trails. He gave some history of the trails and where they are located in the area.

**Winter CCC:** This event is scheduled for Feb 6, 2017, 6pm at the Fitzwilliam Inn. Since the theme is from *this to that*, Adrianna will talk about *this* and Suzanne will talk about *that*. Members discussed the last event and how some of the attendees talked a bit longer than anticipated. It was agreed upon that the event needs a facilitator to keep the speeches on track and with a time limit. Suzanne was the suggested facilitator. In order to set an example, the committee member will also talk less. The round robin, the part of the event where the attendees can talk about themselves, will happen just before the networking phase. The intent of networking is to allow the guests to connect with and feed off one another. Adrianna explained one way to feed off one another is with the "Popcorn Discussion". This allows for fun and structure for the speakers. Another way to visualize how everyone is connected is with a ball of yarn.

**Fitzwilliam Master Plan:** Suzanne read us the goals and intents of the Economic Committee as written in the Master Plan. One goal is to help new businesses with the processes involved when seeking to form a new business in Fitzwilliam. There are several steps one must take and all members thought it was a good idea to put those steps in brochure form as a handout to distribute to guests at events held by the committee. This will be worked on more in-depth at future meetings.

**Approved:** Minutes from Dec 5, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb 13, 2017.

*Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler*

