

## **Fitzwilliam Economic Committee**

July 11, 2016- Lower Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting began at 7pm.

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

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 June 6, 2016

**The Business Journal-** This is a directory published quarterly by the Keene Sentinel which highlights and promotes area businesses. In the hope of having Fitzwilliam businesses mentioned, Clare will contact one of the contributing writers and Suzanne will contact the editor.

**CCC-** The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly business event held at the Fitzwilliam Inn was deemed a success. Although the attendance was not as expected, the quality of the participation of those that attended was more than expected. There was a lot of energy and excitement in the room with good ideas flowing. The speakers, which were phenomenal, provided loads of free information that can be found on the SBCD website. The next **CCC** event is slated for September 12, 2016. The location has not yet been finalized, but talk of Crossroads Pizza or a farm location was brought up. A daytime outdoor event may provide more visibility, but it could also make it more difficult for business owners to attend. It was suggested that Melanie Patterson and Nancy Dubosque return to speak at future events, perhaps on a regular basis. It was proposed that the Ec Comm have a sign or banner to display at their events. This may draw more participation. Phone calls instead of post cards were chosen as a means of reminding businesses about the events.

**Fitzwilliam Sign Policy-** Discussion centered on the regulations of the sign ordinance. The committee would like to see the policy be more business-friendly. It was understood that the premise behind the ordinance is to preserve the rural character of the town, yet they hope it could also aid in the success of our businesses.

**Fitz Food Fest-** This Library sponsored event is scheduled to be held August 13, 2016. Clare has been assisting Nancy Woodward on this project and states everything is under control and that nothing specific at this point is needed from the Ec Comm. Table space will be provided free of charge to those wanting to join. It looks like there will be more farm presence than that of the restaurant industry. The Fitzwilliam business directory will be available for patrons.

**3-Phase Power-** This was brought up again by Sam Lipson, by way of Skip Hagstrom, who states that this would be most beneficial to Route 12 businesses. This could be possible if the Solar Farm project is approved, but that whole process could take a rather long time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm. *Meeting minutes taken by Marion Wheeler*