

## **Fitzwilliam Economic Committee**

May 2, 2016- Lower Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting began at 7pm.

In attendance: Bradley Miller, Suzanne Gray, Clare Rose-Howard, and Chelley Tighe

absent: Skip Hagstrom 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.

## **Next Quarterly Business Meeting**

This next event is scheduled for June 13, 2016 at 6pm, hosted by and located at the Fitzwilliam Inn. Chelley graciously accepted the task of setting everything up and is planning for at least 30 to attend. The scheduled guest speaker will be Tracie Look. The question came up of what to name these events. After some brainstorming, it was decided to go with "*Connect, Create & Collaborate*". Members agreed they would rather have an informal structure to the meeting and have an icebreaker planned. An engaging guessing game whereby a business owner is matched with an interesting fact about itself could be the first item on the agenda for the guests. A few questions would be asked on the invitation with the hopes they would respond via the email account. Suggestions included: the funniest thing that ever happened to you in your business, the most interesting person you've ever met in your business, and more seriously, how can Fitzwilliam help you succeed in your business. Prizes could be awarded. The thought is to have speakers next and then allow time for networking. Brad suggested that it be explained what networking is all about.

## **Fall CCC**

The Fall "*Connect, Create & Collaborate*" event is tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2016. Brad will check on locating it at Crossroads. The Fitzwilliam Library was also suggested. Guest speakers could be Melanie Patterson from the Small Business Development Center and/or Denise Meadows from Hannah Grimes. Denise has knowledge and experience in both the marketplace and the entrepreneurial side of Hannah Grimes. Clare suggested local artisans could be targeted.

## **Fitz Food Fest**

Nancy Woodward from the Library was invited to this meeting but she was unable to attend. She informed the committee that she has already spoken with Tracie and Lisa about the festival. It is still undetermined as to when this activity will take place. The intent of this event is to bring awareness to all that the Fitzwilliam Library has to offer.

**Bard Building**

There is an interested buyer from MA who has a woodworking type of business. That is all that is known at this time.

**Business Directory Updates**

Updates will be submitted to Coni every 6 months, sooner if necessary, in preparation of the next printing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

*Next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2016. Meeting notes were taken by Marion Wheeler.*