

## **Fitzwilliam Economic Committee**

Oct 3, 2016- Lower Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting began at 7pm.

**In attendance:** Bradley Miller, Clare Rose-Howard, Skip Hagstrom, Steve Reinhart and Suzanne Gray.

**Absent:** Chelley Tighe

**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 Aug 1, 2016 and Aug 30, 2016

**September CCC:** Suzanne asked all members what they thought about the latest CCC event. Steve replied that a timekeeper could be used to keep comments on schedule. This could be visual such as an hourglass or something audio. If it is an outdoor event, provide more chairs and perhaps an earlier start time, depending on the season. Brad said he felt it went well. He liked the round robin with guests talking about themselves and their businesses. He was hoping more people would have attended. Skip also agreed that the attendance was a factor in making this event more successful. Clare suggested making it somewhat of a holiday event. Steve thought sending reminders to the guests in a 3-stage format could work. First send an email, second a reminder through the mail to their physical address, and third a phone call.

**Winter CCC:** the group decided January would work best for the next event, as the holiday season would be past. A lot of discussion centered on making this an "Olde Time Winter Festival" with a Yankee swap, cookie swap, games and ice breakers. It was all agreed that more discussion will follow at the next meeting.

**Complete Streets:** Suzanne mentioned that Dorothy Zug has presented the "Complete Streets" to various Fitzwilliam boards. There was positive feedback received. A committee of 5 was formed to help out. Dorothy reached out to Keene & Swanzey, who are already on board with this. At this time, however, this project will not be moving forward.

**T-Mobile Cell Tower:** Suzanne provided information and coverage maps of a cell phone tower being proposed for Fitzwilliam. This is still in the planning stages and no implementation date has been determined yet.

**Xtreme Auto:** This is a new business in town, located on Route 12 diagonally across from the transfer station. Suzanne has stopped in to introduce herself. She gave them a copy of our newsletter and invited them to our meetings.

**Future of Fitzwilliam:** Clare wants to use Social Media to spread word about the Future of Fitzwilliam. This could be an outlet to conduct surveys and to get public opinion on issues surrounding our town.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

*Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler*

**Selectman's meeting:** The committee and its guests were invited to sit in on the discussion between the selectman and JB Mack, senior planner with the Southwest Region Planning Commission. He was there to promote 2 projects that might be of interest to the town. One project is to develop recreational trails throughout the town and perhaps hook up with the trails in neighboring towns. The other project would be to improve the trails we already have. Federal grants are available for both of these. More detailed information is available in the Selectman's minutes of August 1, 2016.

**Dorothy Zug:** Dorothy, from the Conservation Commission, presented the idea of Complete Streets to the committee members. This is an effort to develop bike paths along some of Fitzwilliam roads. Nothing definitive has been done on this yet, but the thought that each time a road is scheduled for repair, determine if there is the capability to include a bike path. The Ec Comm members felt this could help promote business and help to keep our visitors in town. Dorothy will be presenting the "Complete Streets" to other Fitzwilliam boards and committees in the hopes of gaining interest.

**Sept CCC:**- the next event is scheduled for Sep 12, 2016 beginning at 6pm and will be located at the town common with a plan to move to the Library in the event of rain. The canopy will be needed. There is already electricity available and Chris will provide a wireless mic. Clare will decorate and provide refreshments. Chris will talk with the other selectman about using the common for this event. The content of this gathering is to learn more about all the resources available to Fitzwilliam businesses and residents. Suzanne will contact Kate Thomas to see about her speaking to the group on what the library has to offer. Another topic discussed was what other places in town could be promoted to provide a location for businesses and residents to hold an event. This drew a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. It was decided that Chris would notify the other selectman that he was to speak about the town hall as one venue that could be used for purposes other than town meetings. It was decided that other businesses that are in attendance at his CCC could speak about their spaces that could be rented out. Not everyone will get a chance to speak as a portion of the collaboration will be devoted to networking, but attendees could sign up to speak at future events. The CCC will be advertised on Chelley's sandwich board that she is loaning out to the committee and information will be displayed by Sep 1. Reminder phone calls will be made indicating that this will be a casual event and to "bring your own chair".

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

*Meeting minutes taken by Marion Wheeler.*