

## **Economic Committee**

**February 8, 2021**

**7 pm via Zoom**

**Present:** Suzanne Gray, Skip Hagstrom, Steve Reinhart & Beth Lorenz

**Absent:** Chelley Tighe

**Guests:** Jim Millar

**Minutes:** January 11, 2021 approved

**Economic Committee:** Suzanne welcomed Jim and indicated that Jim is considering becoming a member. Jim gave some background on his work history and talked about his business, Pioneer Chairs. Suzanne made a motion, with Steve seconding, to make a request to the Selectman to bring Jim Millar on as a committee member. All voted 4-0; motion passed.

**Promoting the Monadnock Region:** Put on by the Keene Chamber of Commerce and the Southwest Regional Planning Commission. Not much information on this yet, but Steve mentioned the booth pricing is very high and there hasn't been much advertising.

**Monadnock Business Expo:** Sponsored by Silver Direct for Sept 17-19, 2021. This event will showcase your business, provide opportunities to meet other businesses, and help recruit employees. Expects to attract 5000 attendees. Suzanne commented that there are no speakers or educational resources. Not sure if this is the same event as Promoting the Monadnock Region.

Beth asked about bringing in outside people to better grow the Economic Committee. Suzanne responded that we've had several events where experts have helped to promote our businesses. It was agreed that staffing is an area that could be most beneficial. Suzanne will make contact with Indeed and Beth will contact Masiello to seek out speakers for our next meeting.

**Broadband:** Voting on the bond is scheduled for the Town Meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** Skip informed the members that he attended the ZBA meeting where *Antique Auto Restorer* was looking at the old liquor store. He stated the meeting went very smoothly and their plan is to revamp the exterior of the building to make it look like an old barn.

Suzanne would like to step down as chair of the Economic Committee and made a motion to turn the leadership over to Beth. Steve made a second, all

voted 4-0; motion passed with Beth accepting. Suzanne added that she will still be available to help and they will coordinate together.

**Next meeting:** Tentative for March 8 or 22, depending on the Zoom schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

*Minutes taken by Marion Wheeler*