

Minutes
Economic Development Committee
August 10th, 2022

Meeting called to order by chairman Irene Schein at 10:00 am.

Bill Rose appointed as temporary secretary.

Members present Irene Schein, Juan Roman, Linda Roman, Leslie Rickland and Bill Rose

No additions or changes to the agenda.(Special meeting)

No audience for citizens

A. Old Business

1. Recruitment;

Irene brought up that the commission needs new and more members. Irene will revise previous recruitment letter to reflect current charges. Juan will advertise recruitment on google groups, electronic sign and newspaper.

2. Affordable housing;

Irene feels that the large development approach that we were pursuing for senior housing will not work in Chaplin and we should concentrate on a more individual approach such as making accessory apartments more available. Bill suggested that perhaps a temporary short term tax abatement offered to residents for developing an accessory apartment might trigger more residents to create them. Once an unimproved space is finished into a finished one the assessment increases so that once the abatement expires it would add to our grant list and increase taxes. The suggestion of a survey sent out in the senior center newsletter so see what the housing need is was discussed. The remaining approximate \$10,000 left from the affordable housing study grant may still be available to be used for a survey. It was due to expire in June of 2021, Juan will check to see if an extension was applied for.

3. Planning and Zoning News;

Laboratory application was approved for the previous Ct. Casket Co building and the application for the newly proposed gas station was also approved.

4. Business news and farm;

Juan would like to investigate the possibility of getting a tenant to operate the old town owned post office as a coffee shop selling local products such as honey, maple syrup and other farm products. Chaplin based KD Crop farm is seeking funding to help them advance plans to develop their farm. Bill suggested that they talk to one of the department of agriculture's sub departments such as NRCS to see what programs are available. The committee is considering inviting someone from the department of agriculture to give a town sponsored talk. Bill suggested Juan contact NECCOG for a contact list and possible programs.

5. Bicentennial update;

Leslie reported that things are coming together including food trucks, vendors, drone photo, music and sound system. The play of the first town meeting video is now available.

6. Town signage;

The welcome to Chaplin signs will be placed at the Chaplin/Windham town line on Rt #6 and at the intersection of Rt #6 & Rt #198. The sign in front of the town hall is being refurbished and will include a sign for the arboretum.

7. POCD strategies;

POCD states that the town will encourage town based businesses and traffic calming on the Rt #6 corridor and the committee feels we should pursue these strategies. Juan will talk to troop D about lowering the speed limit and asking for more patrolling to slow traffic down due to the many recent accidents on the Windham to Hampton stretch of Rt #6.

POCD also contains initiatives towards green energy. Irene would like to investigate community solar farms and Juan is looking into EV charging stations at the town hall.

B. New business;

1. Board member reports;

Energy strategy and traffic calming already discussed. No other reports.

Same agenda items for next meeting.

Next meeting September 14th at the town hall, 6:30 pm

Adjourned at 11:00 am