

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Janice Pack

December 18, 2017

**Members Present:** Paul Renaud, Jack Moran, Kat Carpenter, Andre Wood**Public Attending:** Ray Cilley**Meeting Opened:** 7:00 PM

**The Minutes** of November 20, 2017 were reviewed. A motion to accept the Minutes as written was made by JMoran, and seconded by KCarpenter. All were in favor; motion passed.

**Mail:**

No mail was received.

PRenaud informed the Committee that Brenda Parker had stepped down from being our Business Event Planner.

**USDA Grant Availability for Feasibility/Marketing Study RE: Recreational Tourism**

Aaron Patt advised PRenaud that there was a grant available that could be used to further the Recreational characteristics of the Town. He said the Select Board was approached by the Greenfield Trails Association (GTA) and as a result of the discussion, he wanted to know if EDAC was interested in doing a marketing study or feasibility survey. JMoran said there was a trail map generated about 15 years ago that was just for GTA's use. Further, if we want to make a change in how Greenfield's future is plotted, we need something to draw people to Greenfield. He feels this would be a good idea. AWood agrees, though wonders if we are responsible for just doing the work or managing the money. JMoran suggested we get together with GTA and find out whether their trails are promotable; if not, he feels we have other trails to offer, as well as ponds. PRenaud will contact APatt for more details.

RCilley said that he had brought the information to APatt. He was thinking of rural development in the downtown area. He said if the Town had a pathway to get the land from Rymes, they could bring in a developer to see what could be done with that property to benefit the Town of Greenfield. PRenaud said we need to get more feedback from the people in town to understand what they want. PRenaud asked for a legal opinion on "If the intent was to convey a part of the lot to the Town, would the Town get the exemption from the zoning ordinance in advance?" The legal opinion was "No, the Town can't get the exemption in advance." RCilley said moving forward, he would be in favor of using the grant to further rural development.

The Committee discussed the Rymes property, and agreed that they (Rymes) should go get a variance for the property if they want to move forward.

Regarding the grant, the first thing we need to do is verify with APatt that the Letter of Intent was sent. JPack will ask APatt about the letter, and ask if he would be writing the grant, and verify that the deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>. The next thing to do would be to talk to the GTA to gather information.

**Business Outreach: Event Planning & Digital Presence Audit**

PRenaud said that Charlie French had spoken about the Digital Presence Audit conducted for businesses at a presentation he had been to. CFrench said that he is surprised by how few businesses take advantage of this. He explained that they will do an audit of all the businesses in town, and find ways to increase their digital presence. The Committee discussed the possibility of doing that in the future.

Regarding the event we had hoped to hold for the area businesses, if we want to proceed with this, it would now be impossible to hold it in the spring; perhaps late September would work. KCarpenter suggested we still have some smaller “coffee klatches” here at the Town Hall on regular meeting nights before we open the meeting. She volunteered to call people and invite them to come. She felt it was a great way to introduce ourselves to the businesses in town, and proposed that we hold them beginning in March. PRenaud wanted to discuss this further at our next meeting. AWood said by inviting businesses to come meet with us, we were providing outreach, and we could find out what the businesses need from the EDAC.

For next month’s meeting, PRenaud asked the Committee to decide who we wanted to invite to the Business-to-Business meetings. JMoran said it could be an open forum. KCarpenter will draft a script so we can discuss in more detail at our next meeting how we want to proceed.

**The Monadnock Table magazine** – AWood shared the current magazine, which is nicely done, and wondered if it was a venue for us to advertise in. It could also be a resource for us to find local businesses.

#### **ITIF Report on State New Economy Index: Discussion of Consequences**

PRenaud said we will table this discussion for our next meeting.

#### **Review 2017 EDAC Annual Report**

This has not been done yet.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Committee discussed whether or not to postpone the January and February meetings, both of which fall on holidays. It was decided that most committee members would be available, so we can hold the meetings as scheduled.

PRenaud brought up the Coville lots. He said that the ownership has changed to The Coville Brothers LLC with an address in Vermont. He would like to have a conversation with the brothers to find out if they would be willing to put one of the lots on the market. He feels they would be prime locations for development.

Having covered the items on the agenda, PRenaud moved to adjourn the meeting; AWood seconded and all were in favor.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.**