



Meeting minutes – EDC

December 17, 2018 at 7pm at the Richard H. Smith Town Hall, Deep River

In attendance – Tom Perry, Ted MacKenzie, Bill Dahl, Russ Marth

Meeting called to order at 7:05. Pete Lewis was unable to attend, by consensus minutes were taken by R. Marth.

T. Perry made motion to accept November 2018 meeting minutes. T. MacKenzie seconded. No additions or changes were recommended. Acceptance of minutes passed unanimously.

The following items were discussed. Decisions that were made are noted.

Funding for the EDC: MacKenzie wondered about the status of funding for the EDC. Marth related that there is no particular funding, though the subject was related to the Board of Finance and talked about with the First Selectman. There would be no “official” funding, it was noted, until the 2019-2020 budget year. Funds would potentially be available after the fiscal year begins, July 1st 2019.

However, it was noted that if some funds were needed for a specific task during the six-months remaining in this fiscal year, costs could be presented to the BOF in advance.

Signage: It was noted that the EDC should officially request a directional sign, as previously discussed, at the end of the northbound exit 5, off Route 9. Other smaller signs for back roads were discussed.

Finding properties that the EDC can help fill: Marth discussed the fact that a full dossier of available buildings or spaces is difficult to create because of the time and effort it would take. (There is just not enough available man-power within the EDC or within the town hall’s staff.) As a result, Marth asked if it was possible to find just a few spaces that are empty and concentrate on them in order to help find appropriate companies that could make use of them? MacKenzie offered to work on this project.

Articles for publication: this item is to be worked on. It was agreed to search for public relations people by asking for volunteers among the town’s existing citizens. The EDC should produce some “file stories” for publication in both newspapers and online, including stories on recently-arrived businesses (i.e. Nautical Needles) and it was also suggested there could be “businesses of the year” or other Deep River business could be focused upon in articles of this type. The EDC would also like to continue to collect information about the incubator program – past, present and future.

Hydro-electric units: MacKenzie talked about and presented information about his recent search for existing hydro-electric units that are scattered throughout Deep River, but “buried” at this time. He is researching this, currently, with an eye toward reestablishing and reinstalling these hydro-electric units.

EDC webpage on Deep River website: Dahl and Marth presented the work and findings they had accomplished during the previous month in regard to the EDC page on the town’s website. There was some written planning and also some writing done toward readying for changes on the EDC website page. Dahl presented ideas and information, Marth presented figures from the last year showing that of the hundreds of hits on the Town of Deep River website, only a handful were for the EDC page.

There is a wrinkle in this website “redo” project: the town’s website is to be redone/reworked early in 2019. Both Dahl and Marth attended a presentation earlier in the day, given by the website company hoping to recreate the town’s website. Mr. Dahl presented the findings and particulars of that company.

Work is to continue on the EDC website page and having all information ready in time for the rewrite of the town’s website.

- Russell Marth, Chairman
December 21, 2018