

Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Randy Orvis, Chairman
Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice Chairman
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.
Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.

Committee Members Absent:

Diane Blair
Angela Hardin

Others Present:

Brian Oxx

1). Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Orvis called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2). Review of Minutes:

October 11, 2016 – Page 1, What is the ERZ Program, 3rd sentence- add "award" between "credit" and "is".

Motion: (Titus, second Laferte) to accept the minutes as amended passed 4-0.

November 15, 2016 – No omissions or corrections.

Motion: (Laferte, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 3-0-1 (Roy-Palmer abstained).

3). New Business:

Members discussed a plan to purchase the former Masons' building by the Friends of Farmington. Mr. Orvis said the non-profit addiction recovery service plans to provide space for addiction recovery services, community meeting space and business incubator spaces in the building. The organization is conducting fund raising events to fund the purchase of the building. Consensus of the members was to invite Mrs. Kathy King to a meeting to discuss the plan and how the EDC can help promote the project.

Mrs. Titus will contact Mrs. King.

5). Old Business:

ATV Trails- At the previous meeting, the members discussed the potential for a "park and ride" location for ATV riders at the former Textron property. Mr. Orvis told the committee he would contact state officials and the local ATV clubs to invite them to a meeting to discuss the potential to expand ATV trails in Farmington.

Mr. Orvis reported he e-mailed NH DRED but has yet to receive a response.

He added that he received several positive responses to the idea from state and local candidates at the Candidates' Night held before the recent election.

Resident Brian Oxx suggested another way to contract ATV/Snowmobile groups is through their Face Book pages.

Discussion included the types/locations of the trails in the area, the lack of trail maps, trail maintenance, creating new trails and increasing patronage of local business through promotion of trails and riding events.

Mr. Orvis will contact the NH Trails Bureau, New England Trail Riders, the Factory Connection

and Kaine Realty for more information about the status of the former Textron property.

TIF District – Mrs. Titus reported the TIF District Advisory Board is in need of one more member to be a complete board.

Mr. Orvis said he spoke with a representative of a natural gas company about the possibility of bringing natural gas lines up the Route 11 corridor to Farmington in an effort to attract business to the TIF District and supply another fuel source to businesses and homes in the area. He said the company representative said the company is having issues with NH DOT and not ready to discuss expanding the fuel service with the committee at this time.

Discussion included if the existing TIF account can be used to pay for natural gas lines, setting up a new TIF for natural gas lines, the importance sewer/gas lines, misconceptions about sewer/septic systems, advantages of natural gas and potential development of the west side of Route 11.

Mr. Orvis will contact the Town Administrator to discuss potential uses for the existing TIF and the process to set up a new TIF District.

Newsletter- Mrs. Titus asked the committee for their thoughts concerning the content and format of future monthly newsletters. Discussion included determining the audience, highlighting the zones in town and allowed uses in those zones, suggestions for spotlighting a business each month, promoting the sale of commercial property in town and where the newsletter will be available. Mrs. Titus will contact Admin. Asst. Erica Rogers for assistance with producing the newsletter.

6). Any Other Business to come Before the Committee:

Re-opening of Crowley's Market- Mrs. Titus told the members the market is scheduled to re-open for business within the next few days after the extended closure due to the replacement of the underground fuel tanks at the site.

Mr. Orvis said he was told the extended closure was due to issues with the width of the state right-of-way because of misinformation provided by the NH DES.

Planning Board Report- Mr. Laferte told the members that the Planning Board is currently working on revisions to the Accessory Dwelling Units Ordinance necessitated by a lawsuit at the state level seeking to provide more types of living spaces. He said the board is also considering potential revisions to the Sign Ordinance following a federal court case disallowing unequal regulation of signs due to their content/use.

7). Next Meeting: January 10, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Agenda- OHRV status, TIF District status, Planning Board report, New Business, Old Business.

8). Adjournment:

Motion: (Laferte, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Randy Orvis, Chairman

