

Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.
Diane Blair

Others Present:

Angela Hardin

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Orvis called the informal meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. due to the lack of a quorum of the members. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None.

Review of Minutes: Tabled until the next meeting.

OHRV Update:

Chairman Orvis said he spoke with Bureau of Trails Chief Chris Gamache regarding the expansion of OHRV trails in Farmington. He said that he discussed the potential for a Park and Ride location for OHRV riders at the former Textron property parking lot which abuts the former railroad tracks now used as trails for recreational purposes. Mr. Gamache advised that the Federal program that funded the trail prohibits use by motorized wheeled vehicles. Mr. Gamache said he plans to meet with NH U.S. Senators and request they submit a bill to Congress seeking to lift the restriction to OHRV use on the trails. He said the Park and Ride location is a good idea but noted it has a lot of obstacles to overcome Mr. Orvis said.

TIF District Status from the Planning Board Representative:

Mr. Laferte did not attend the meeting.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer asked if there is a full TIF District Advisory Board yet.

Mrs. Titus said she thought the board is waiting for one member and that she did not know if they have started to meet yet.

Mrs. Titus said she will check on the status of the board with the Town Administrator.

By-Laws:

Members discussed reviewing the committee by-laws and updating the section on attendance requirements at the next meeting.

Mr. Orvis suggested copies of the by-laws be available at the next meeting for review.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said the by-laws are also posted on the Town website in the EDC section if members wished to familiarize themselves with them before the next meeting.

Old Business:

Natural Gas Lines- Mr. Orvis said the representative of a natural gas company previously told him that the company was having issues with NH DOT regarding installation of gas lines in the

state right-of-way along state roads but has since learned that the company is installing gas lines along a portion of Route 106 in the state right-of-way. He said making natural gas available in the Route 11 area would help to attract business to the TIF District as it is a cheaper energy source than other fuels. He said he will contact the representative again to get a status update.

Friends of Farmington/Mason's Building- Ms. Hardin told the members that the group is actively fund raising to raise money to purchase the Mason's building.

Mrs. Titus said she was informed that the group has raised approx. \$50,000 of the \$110,000 needed to purchase the building. They have been conducting various fund raising events and are also seeking individual donations to help fund their plan to provide space for addiction recovery services, community meetings and business incubator spaces in the building she said.

Mr. Orvis said he will contact Mrs. Kathy King and ask her to attend a meeting and discuss their plans and how the committee can help promote the project.

Monthly Newsletter- Members decided to include the following subjects in the next newsletter: highlight Crowley's Variety and Grill as Business of the Month, the TIF District Advisory Board and the names of the members, a request for new members of all the Town boards with vacancies including the requirements to become a board member, the new commercial real estate listing website and updated information regarding the increase in the cap on the tax credit awarded by the state from \$850,000 to \$1.4 million for ERZ zones.

New Business:

Sarah Greenfield Business Park- Mr. Orvis said the existing covenants for the business park are restrictive and may be discouraging interest in purchasing the remaining lots owned by the Town. He suggested the members review the covenants at the next meeting and then suggest changes to the Board of Selectmen to help encourage the sale of the lots. He said he will bring a copy of the document to the next meeting.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer suggested Mrs. Titus discuss the issue with Selectmen to determine if they would consider making any changes to the covenants before the committee spends any significant amount of time reviewing them and coming up with suggested changes. She also asked for information on how many lots the Town owns and if the large lot that extends out to Route 11 is Town owned.

Mrs. Titus said she will discuss the matter with Selectmen at their Jan. 16th meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Orvis closed the informal meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Randy Orvis, Chairman

