

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
JOINT MEETING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE &
DOWNTOWN AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Members Present: Gail Ellis, Ann Titus, Denise Roy-Palmer, Rodney Jablonski and Joan Funk

Members Absent: Sheila Walter

Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan

Town Staff Present: Rec. Director Rick Conway and Planning Director Kathy Menici

At 5:00pm Chairman Gail Ellis called the meeting to order.

1. Discussion with Town Planner:

Planning Director Kathy Menici informed the Committee that the Town was awarded a \$30,000 Community Planning Grant which will be used to hire a consultant to work with the Planning Board to research and identify which intersection on Rte. 11 will be best suited for a high density commercial/industrial development. These funds will also help to research and create a TIF district and 79E district in the downtown area. They will need help from volunteers of this Committee in the future and will bring a list of tasks back to the group when they are ready.

Kathy further explained that she contacted the realtor for Rite Aid and informed them of some potential sites on Rte. 11 in a mailed packet.

2. Update on Mark Ellis Rental:

Jim informed the Committee that Mark Ellis has a current three month contract where he is but has not made any final decisions on what he would like to do after that. Joan asked if he looked at some of the downtown vacant stores and Jim replied yes, but they are more than he is looking to pay at this time.

3. Hay Day Update:

Rick provided the Committee with a breakdown of the expenses for the Hay Day road race. The race certifier does not see any issues with certifying the race however, he is waiting for all the

snow to be melted first. The first Hay Day Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 4pm. Joan asked how much it costs to have the rides at Hay Day and Rick explained there is no cost for them to come to town and actually the town receives revenue from the rides.

4. Review Website Information:

Gail suggested all the members review the website and make a list of possible updates/changes. Ann asked if the computer in this room could be turned on so the committee could look at it as a whole and Jim explained he would get it hooked up for the next meeting.

5. Review of Minutes:

Ann Titus motioned to accept the minutes of February 12, 2013 as amended, 2nd Gail Ellis. Motion carried with Joan Funk abstaining.

6. Other Business:

A. Denise showed the members examples of the ads that were posted over the past years from the Greater Seacoast Economic Development Alliance that the committee is interested in joining next year.

B. Gail informed the member that she received a letter of resignation from Sheila due to a work scheduling conflict. *Jim Horgan motioned to accept Sheila Walter's resignation, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with all in favor.* The committee currently has three openings.

C. It was discussed that the members would like the Business Expo to occur again this year during Hay Day. Some raffle items will be needed and the advertising/promotion needs to be increased. The goal of the Expo is to give small business owners who do not have store frontage downtown the arena to display their business. Jim will have email invites to all Farmington businesses to invite them to the Expo though there will be a \$10 cost this year. Rodney stated that letters need to go out to participants prior to the event thanking them for their interest and giving them the instructions for the day.

D. Ann suggested inviting the downtown empty store front owners to the next meeting to discuss how the committee can help fill their spaces. Everyone was in agreement it was a great idea and Ann will invite them.

E. It was discussed that the meeting time was changed to 5pm so that the Town Administrator could attend and he has not been regularly attending. Jim will talk to Keith.

F. Ribbon cutting for Mark Ellis at Coppolla's will be scheduled for March 28, 2013 at 4:30pm. Chag's Den is not ready for a ribbon cutting but will let Ann know when he is. Ann will contact Winnisquam Wood to see if they would like a ribbon cutting.

7. Election of Officers:

Ann Titus nominated Gail Ellis for Chairman, 2nd Joan Funk. Motion carried with all in favor.

Jim Horgan nominated Ann Titus for Vice-Chairman, 2nd Gail Ellis. Motion carried with all in favor.

Jim Horgan motioned to table the election of a secretary, 2nd Ann Titus. Motion carried with all in favor.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9 at 5pm.

At 6:36pm, Ann Titus motioned to adjourn, 2nd Denise Roy-Palmer. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary