

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON
JOINT MEETING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE &
DOWNTOWN AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

Members Present: Ann Titus, Gail Ellis, Kathy King and JoAnn Doke
Members Absent: Sharon McKenny and Rich Stanley
Selectmen's Representative: Jim Horgan and Joan Funk
Town Staff Present: Rec Director Rick Conway

At 6:35pm Chairman Jim Horgan called the meeting to order. It was decided that the Downtown Business Committee will join the FEDC meeting over the next few months as they share a current vision to revitalize Farmington.

1. Review of Minutes –

A. Ann Titus motioned to accept the minutes of 1-31-12 as written, 2nd Gail Ellis. Motion carried with Jim Horgan abstaining.

2. Old Business – Jim explained the Board of Selectmen forwarded letters of termination to Terry Mills and Tracy Major from the FEDC. Also, the By-Laws were accepted by the Selectmen.

3. Public Comment – Joan Funk stated that she was made aware of a pet grooming business owner who was told he would need a variance to operate his business in the downtown area and it seems this would be a logical downtown business. Jim stated that there are some shortcomings in the Table of Permitted Uses and we should make the Planning Board aware of this but the business owner could go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and request a variance. Kathy stated she would like a log kept of who is going into the Planning Office to open a business in town so that the FEDC can help. A discussion was held where it was decided that the FEDC could create a letter that could be attached to the Planning Department packet for possible businesses to let them know the FEDC is available for support and possible direction. A blurb could also be put in the Puddledock Press and Channel 25.

Rick suggested a short questionnaire as to the potential business owner's name, phone number, potential business and preferred location. These questionnaires could be given to potential business owners that enter the Planning Office so the EDC can contact them to see if there is anything that can be done to help. All members will draft some information/questions and forward them to Jim who will then create a draft for the committees to review at the next meeting.

4. **Hay Day** – The committee invited Rick Conway, Rec. Director, to this meeting to discuss Hay Day. Jim started by asking Rick if he knows of previous events that used to occur. Rick explained two things he has heard of is tossing the sheath and the sander races but these are liability issues. Joan explained Hay Day always had vendors but the whole crux of it was to bring the community together.

Kathy asked if a fun run can be planned and Rick said any type of road race/run would have to be certified for liability purposes. Also a certified race would need to be planned starting in the fall because it takes a long time to set the race up. Everyone decided that a large scale certified race should be planned now for 2013 Hay Day weekend. Rick asked if the money raised from the race could be used to offset Hay Day and the quick response was yes. Rick will put together a timeline for organizing the race.

The Committee previously discussed having the town hall full of Farmington business owners to display their business. Jim asked how many tables can go into the town hall and Rick said about 17-20. Jim then asked if the businesses could sell things and the response was no, it would not be a good idea because other businesses pay for spots outside. It was decided that the businesses could only showcase their business. Rick then added that the Rec. tables will not be available for the event because they use them.

It was discussed that a gimmick is needed to get people into the business expo in the town hall. A passport where Hay Day participants would get checked off and then turn in as a raffle ticket would be a good idea. Filled passports could possibly get a lollipop and then be entered into a raffle. The Downtown Committee has two raffle baskets with \$100 savings bonds. Rick then stated the cost to rent the Rec. would be \$70 for 10-2pm. A letter will be sent to the business owners listed on the town business site from the FEDC. Also an ad on Channel 25 would be good to reach those people who are not on the town business list.

5. **Other** - Joan asked if the FEDC has looked into contacting big corporations to intrigue them into coming to Farmington. Jim said they originally were going to start with the big corporations but found there is a lot more to the financial issues for new businesses.

Next meeting is March 27, 2012.

At 8:10pm, Gail Ellis motioned to adjourn, 2nd Kathy King. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Sanger
Recording Secretary