**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee**

**Meeting March 29, 2016**

Attendees: Chuck Osgood, Pat Rice, Judy Horten, Erik Espling, Sarah Zmistowski

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 3rd meeting was made and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

* **Business Visitation:** Chuck Osgood visited Stacey Guerin owner of RM Flagg to find out more about what Veazie businesses might need and to also get some feedback about a future business event. The following e-mail summarizes their meeting:

*Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with me.  As I mentioned, we think our best investment is in the businesses that are already members of our community and we look forward to working with you.  Your ideas about a Christmas home/business decoration contest, while perhaps working with the Garden Club, is definitely something I will raise at our next VEDC meeting.  And I appreciate your interest in thinking about promoting your cooking classes with some sort of local contest, perhaps involving local businesses and cooks.  And finally, we look forward to hearing more about the Baked Bean event you are having in April and how we might assist with its promotion.*

*Two follow up items:  the baked bean event, and having you meet with our committee when you have a chance.  If you have time in April, let me know what works for you and we can try to work around your schedule.  Otherwise we will schedule something in July after the House session adjourns.*

* Discussion on Future Networking Event: The committee plans to focus on helping and assisting existing businesses rather than hoping that a large business will decide to build here. The reason we have come to this decision was the lack of available properties that are suitable for commercial development. Many of the land parcels are held by large holders and only a very few areas/buildings are readily available. So the committee spent a great deal of time discussing a “business networking event” that we could host and that would help us understand the needs of Veazie businesses and at the same time be a networking event for Veazie business owners to meet and exchange ideas. The committee picked a tentative date of May 17th with the meeting to be held in the Town Council Chambers at noontime and the food for this event to be purchased from Veazie food vendors. Action Items: Pat will check on availability of date and reserve space. Pat and Sarah will work on putting together a flyer that can be handed out to the invitees to the event.
* Discussion about Penobscot River Whitewater Nationals Regatta: Not much was discussed about what the committee will be doing for this event since the event is not until July 6-10th. Action item: Pat will contact Mark to see if the structure/hardware is in place for the Town to have a Race Banner; Pat will contact Scott Philips of the Penobscot Nation to see what the set up will be.

**Next meeting:** - The next meeting date was set for April 19, 2016 at 6:30 pm. There was a motion to adjourn and seconded- the meeting adjourned at 8:07pm