Minutes Veazie Economic Development Committee

Meeting March 4, 2015

Members present: Chuck Osgood, Patricia Rice, Sarah Zmistowski

Meeting started promptly at 6:30 pm

1. **Committee matters:** Election of Chair was held: Chuck Osgood put a motion to nominate Pat as chair and the motion was seconded by Sarah and all approved. Pat indicated that she would also take on the duties of secretary until more members joined the committee. This was seconded and approved.

Discussion took place about filling out the committee with two other prospective members and Chuck and Pat will seek out the two additional members. Sarah asked if there were incorporation or mission statements for the committee and Chuck said that there were back in the late 1990’s and that there is a binder of the former committees actions.

2. **TIF:** A short review of the Veazie TIF with Casco Bay Energy was done by those present. It was decided that a more detailed review should be done because of the volume of documents involved in the original TIF and subsequent amendment. Sarah volunteered to undertake this task.

Further regarding the TIF, it was decided that Ben Birch could shine light on additional questions resulting from the review of the TIF and we should invite Ben to the next meeting. Ben could also give us some insight into the town’s inventory or listing of existing businesses in town.

The committee is interested in reaching out to existing businesses to see what assistance or help they may find valuable.

3. **Community Center:** Pat brought up that the Town Council had a long debate recently on the situation at the Community Center. It has had recent renovations but there is still only one paying tenant in the building. The lease was renewed for one year to give the Town options as to what to do with the building. The economic development committee may be asked to outline options for the council. Discussion followed resulting in the resolve to look at the building on March 11th and to reach out to Don McKay to see what is the status and potential of the building.

4. **Penobscot River Restoration:** The Penobscot River Restoration project will impact actions that the committee can take so it is important for the committee to understand the limitations and restrictions that this project may impose on future development. Pat has been in touch with Laura Rose Day of the Restoration project and Ms. Day has offered to meet with the committee. It was suggested that meeting with Laura Rose Day with the Town’s Planning Committee may be a way to jointly understand the situation with the land use. Pat will continue contact with Laura Rose Day and Don McKay of the Planning Board to see about a joint meeting.

**5. Other:** Chuck suggested that other items that the committee should consider look into are meeting with the major land owners and the extension of Natural Gas lines in town.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 8th at 6:30pm

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm