

**TOWN OF NORFOLK  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
May 12, 2016**

**Minutes - DRAFT**

Present: Libby Borden, Toby Young, Bill Brown, Pete Anderson, Doreen Kelly, Larry Hannafin, Mary Fanette, Jim Nelson, Jenny Munch

Absent: Dan Hincks

Visitors: Sue Dyer, Sue Frisch, Holly Gill, Wiley Wood, Sally Vaun, Dave Beer, Lou Barbagallo, Joel Howard, Steve Melville, Jon Reideman

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Libby Borden called the meeting to order.

Jim Nelson moved to approve the April minutes, Mary Fanette seconded. All were in favor.

**Station Place Buildings**

Six Station Place: Bill Brown

Last year Bill and others started discussions with Ryan Craig of the Berkshire Country Store, but discussions stalled in the fall. Over the winter, the situation changed and the discussions started up again about a convenience store/deli. Bill is now soliciting potential lenders for the building out of the kitchen (increments of \$10,000). There will be a public hearing on May 24.

Norfolk Foundation: Steve Melville

The Foundation started forming at the same time that the discussions started last year with Ryan Craig. They are now in the process of buying both Six Station Place (Hardware Store) and Two Station Place (Corner Store). Six is expected to have Ryan Craig as a tenant, discussed above. For Two Station Place, they are thinking of the possibility of a non-profit hub (office, staff, collaboration with other non-profits) for the foreseeable future. They are also looking at ways to help with City Meadow. For the longer term, the Norfolk Foundation is looking into events such as WIN, perhaps an arts festival in June and book festival in August, etc.

**Town Website: Mary Fanette**

They are making progress and the web designer is committed to having something up and running by the end of the month. The town government and calendar are the first things that will be done.

Libby suggested all town organizations have a link that sends people to the town website.

**WIN Weekend**

Sue Frisch is now getting the word out and focusing on advertising for WIN. They are now on both Facebook and Twitter. They would like the town and all town organizations to link to their website. There are 42 events currently scheduled.

Doreen Kelly suggested a temporary welcome arch for the WIN weekend and thought that perhaps there would be a way to involve high school kids or volunteers. Sue Dyer reminded everyone that there may be issues with the State of CT. Committee members think this would be a great idea to pursue.

Steve Melville said that Two Station Place will probably be under construction during WIN but that Ryan Craig would do something outside the store and Six Station Place should be cleaned out and ready for a pop-up (i.e., Schuyler Thomson canoe workshop or Jon Reideman art show).

Infinity is committed to having music at WIN and is considering Robertson Plaza on Station Place. Sue Dyer to research whether there is electricity at the plaza for them to use.

### **Town Organizations Update**

Foundation for Norfolk Living: Lou Barbagallo

The goal of the foundation is to create housing opportunities for people with modest means. They are working with the contractor for the buildings and finalizing docs for the closing of the state's grant. There could be construction activity going on during WIN.

Farmers Market: Sue Frisch

The outdoor market is starting up this Saturday for the season. It is their 10<sup>th</sup> year!

Yale School: Jim Nelson

They are getting ready for the summer and the first students arrive in about a week.

On Saturday May 14, from 4-6pm, they will be hosting an Open House at White House to meet Melvin Chen, the new artistic director. The Shed's chairs (with new cushions!) are being refurbished and should be done shortly. They are in Phase 2 of renovation (the stage will be refurbished, etc.)

City Meadow: Pete Anderson

They are trying to get an extension on the grant and are waiting to hear from the State.

Rails to Trails: Dave Beer

They are applying to the State to approve the new North River Trail (272 to Ashpohtag) – it is open to the public now but not formally (no signage, no blazing, etc.). The trailhead is at the Stoney Lonesome Trail parking area. North Rive and Stoney Lonesome are the two trails they are focused on for Rails to Trails – they've applied for two grants.

Community Association: Joel Howard

The CA is getting back on track and they are currently working on a fundraising letter. They are arranging to have flowers delivered the Friday of Memorial Day and will need some volunteers to help with planting. They are focusing on the RR trestle at the library and will coordinate with the town, library and the Kellys.

Artists Show/Pop Up Gallery: Jon Reideman

He is looking at options such as Six Station Place since Two Station Place will be under construction.

## Other News

Janet Serra, CT Board of Tourism for NW CT, has been very helpful to WIN and Sue recommends that everyone reach out to her to get her updated on town events: [lhcvtbnwct@aol.com](mailto:lhcvtbnwct@aol.com) / 860 567 4506.

Tiffany Tours – Sally Hannafin has organized Tiffany tours with a bus tour company. The tours first meet at the Hannafins and then go see the windows at the church. Louis Tiffany's two daughters spent their last 15 years summering in Norfolk in the Hannafin house. Jim Nelson has offered up White House as another option for the tours.

Libby adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Toby Young